

## Clinton Tells Africans of Regret for 'Sins' of Past

*'Neglect and Ignorance' Of the Continent Were The Worst, He Says*

KAMPALA, Uganda — President Bill Clinton sounded a measured note of contrition on Tuesday for past "sins" in U.S. relations with Africa, including Cold War support for repressive regimes and participation by American forefathers in slavery.

Speaking at a village school set amid leafy hills outside the Ugandan capital of Kampala, Mr. Clinton stopped short of making an explicit apology for slavery — a thorny issue that continues to roil American racial politics.

He did, however, propose more than \$180 million in new aid for a continent he said had been subjected to American "neglect and ignorance."

"It is as well not to dwell too much in the past," he said, "but I think it is worth pointing out that the United States has not always done the right thing by Africa."

A Cold War rivalry with the Soviet Union had led the United States to deal with countries in Africa and elsewhere based on their superpower allegiances rather than "how they stood in the struggle for their own people's aspirations to live up to the fullest of their God-given abilities," he said.

"And of course, going back to the time before we were even a nation, European-Americans received the fruits of the slave trade, and we were wrong in that as well," Mr. Clinton said.

His 12-day journey through Africa is to finish April 2 at the Goree Island slave transshipment point in Senegal. The trip takes place in a year during which Mr. Clinton has sought to call attention to racial dialogue and healing. But his aides have said that he will not issue a formal apology.

Mr. Clinton prefaced his speech Tuesday by saying he had listened

See AFRICA, Page 12

## For Africa, Rare Respect

*Just by Visiting, Clinton Recognizes Its Potential*

By R. W. Apple Jr.  
New York Times Service

ACCRA, Ghana — Africa is the Rodney Dangerfield of continents: the world seems to pay it scant heed and shows it less respect.

The United States has been no exception. In a 1994 study of U.S. policies toward Africa, Peter Schraeder of Loyola University in Chicago wrote that they have always been marked "by indifference at worst and neglect at best."

That is what President Bill Clinton is

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setting out to change in his 12-day trip here — three times longer than all of his predecessors combined have spent in this vast continent, which the missionary David Livingstone once described as the "running sore of the world."

In recent decades Africa has mostly meant trouble, from the Biafran insurgency to civil war in Angola, from famine in Ethiopia and Somalia to genocide in Rwanda, from Ian Smith to Idi Amin.

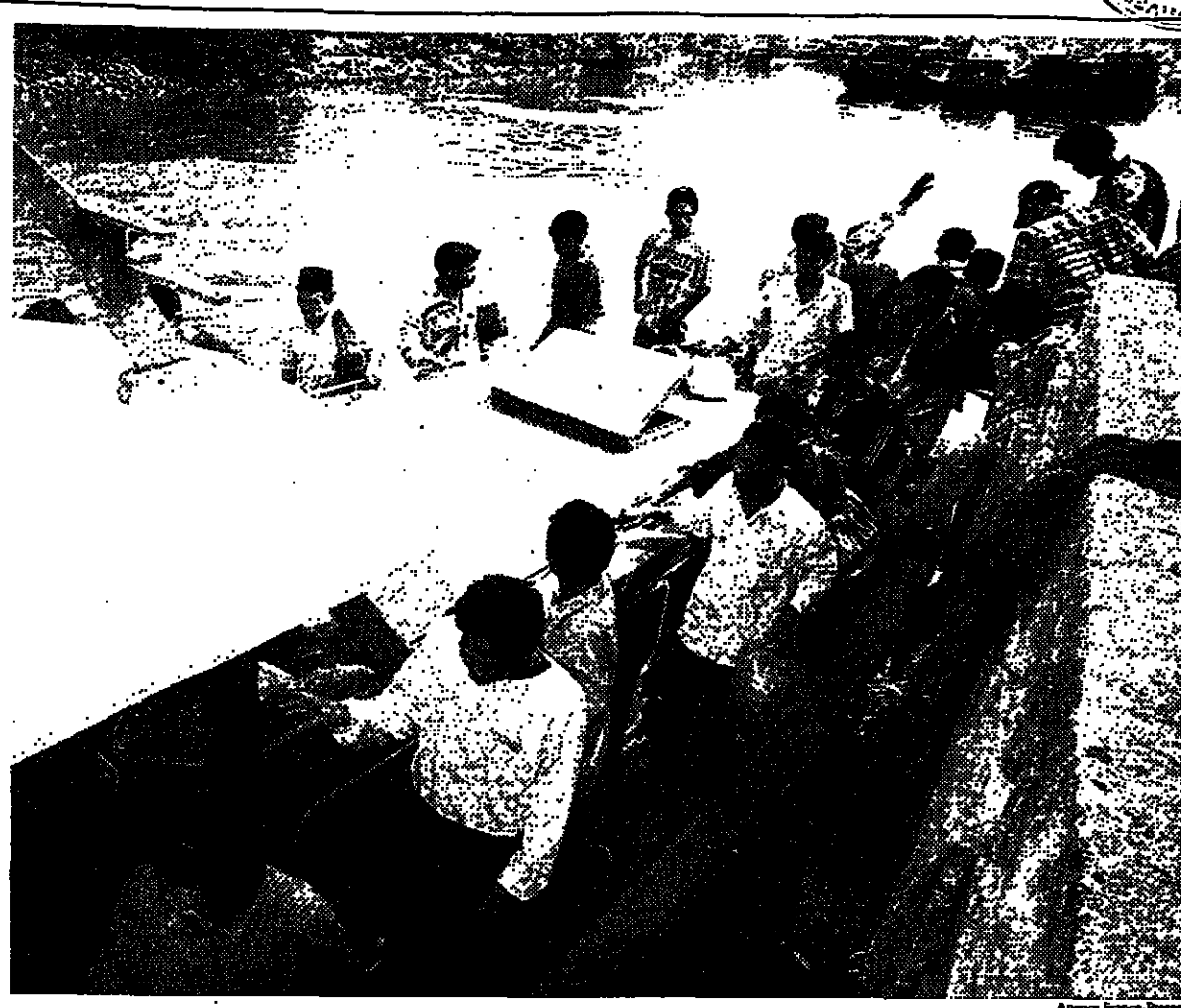
Only the transition from apartheid to democracy in South Africa under Nelson Mandela's leadership has broken the pattern dramatically enough to catch the eye of significant numbers of Americans.

Mr. Clinton thinks the winds of change are blowing, says a "new African renaissance" is at hand and just by coming he has demonstrated something. He has demonstrated, say African diplomats and students of Washington's African policy, that the United States no longer considers Africa peripheral.

"The Africans had pretty well concluded that we didn't give a damn about them," said C. Payne Lucas, who heads Africa, an organization of American volunteers in 30 African countries.

"We've ignored this continent, except for the Peace Corps, the big oil companies and a crisis here and there, so this trip is a very helpful signal."

Yet there is widespread, profound skepticism about the president's broad-



Some of the 150 or so Indonesian migrants, including children, being deported from Malaysia on Tuesday.

## Malaysia to Indonesians: Go Away

*That's the Official Name of Its Crackdown on Illegal Immigrants*

By Thomas Fuller  
International Herald Tribune

KUALA LUMPUR — The Malaysian Navy has launched a small fleet. The police have descended almost nightly on squatter villages, arresting those without working papers. And trawler captains convicted of ferrying illegal immigrants have been sentenced to three years in prison and six lashes with a rattan cane.

Malaysia in recent weeks has all but declared war on boatloads of illegal immigrants landing on its shores.

Called a new breed of "boat people" by Malaysia's prime minister, Mahatir bin Mohamad, they are refugees from Indonesia's financial crisis. About 19,000 refugees, almost all of them Indonesian, have been arrested since

January in Malaysia, twice the number in all of last year. To stem the flow, authorities last week launched Operation Nyah, or, literally translated: Operation Go Away.

Naval ships, police boats and helicopters patrol the Strait of Malacca around the clock, intercepting overloaded trawlers before they can reach Malaysia.

After years of ignoring the influx of illegal workers — there are about 800,000 of them in the country — Malaysia is sealing its borders and handing down harsh sentences for those caught ferrying or harboring the workers.

Neighboring Singapore has also ordered a crackdown on illegal immigrants. On Saturday, a judge sentenced 117 men, convicted of entering the country illegally or over-

See MALAYSIA, Page 12

## Yeltsin Will Retain 2 Senior Ministers

*No Clues Yet On Top Post*

By David Hoffman  
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin spared his foreign and defense ministers Tuesday from the government reorganization he ordered this week while berating his top aides, saying they allowed his orders to go unenforced and warning they could be fired, too.

Mr. Yeltsin offered no clues as to his choice for a new prime minister to replace Viktor Chernomyrdin. But the temporary prime minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, a one-time banker, bounded across Moscow's political landscape with obvious enthusiasm as he prepared recommendations for Mr. Yeltsin, leading to more speculation that Mr. Kir-



Foreign Minister Primakov won some presidential praise Tuesday.

Albright defends Yeltsin's right to dismiss his team. Page 7.

Yeltsin, 35, was a serious candidate to head the new government.

Showing deference to Parliament, which is dominated by Communists and nationalists, Mr. Kiriyenko paid courtesy calls on leaders of both houses to ask for their suggestions.

The presidential spokesman, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, said the acting prime minister had not yet met or talked with Mr. Yeltsin, a day after the president elevated him to run the government.

Mr. Kiriyenko has said that Mr. Yeltsin ordered him to come up with a new government within about a week and that he was planning to be at center stage again Wednesday when the president meets here with President Jacques Chirac of France and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany.

Mr. Kiriyenko also is expected to meet with Grigori Yavlinsky, the centrist leader of the Yabloko bloc in Parliament, who is among several other leading political figures mentioned as a possible new prime minister.

During a meeting of senior staff aides, Mr. Yeltsin spoke well of Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov and Defense Minister Igor Sergeev, Russian press agencies reported. Mr. Yeltsin's comments were viewed as a signal that the two ministers would be retained in the new government. The fate of many other ministers, including a reformer, Boris Nemtsov, a first deputy prime minister, were still not known.

Sitting at the head of a long table, Mr. Yeltsin looked pale and spoke slowly in the Kremlin videotape aired on evening news broadcasts. "I must say," he told the aides, "I don't like everything that you are doing."

There was a long pause. "Especially as far as the control system is concerned," he said. "We must create an atmosphere in which everybody knows that a decree not implemented means death — the end. That would mean either you write a letter of resignation on the spot, or just resign. That is all. There is no other option."

Mr. Yeltsin, who under the constitution has the power to legislate by decree, has often found his orders ignored, especially in the regions outside Moscow. He has repeatedly demanded that his subordinates find a way to clear

See RUSSIA, Page 12



President Clinton with President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda at a village school Tuesday. Mr. Clinton announced \$182 million in aid for Africa.

## France's Bugbear: Change, Not the National Front

By John Vinocur  
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — More than an easy-to-remedy breakdown in party politics, the extraordinary admission of the fascist-tinted National Front into the mainstream exemplifies France's resistance to reinventing itself and its difficulties in creating a new sense of national purpose.

If the French widely agree that deals by center-right politicians with the National Front on regional governments meant transgressing a barrier of shame, the proposals made by President Jacques Chirac as a democratic response Monday night relate mostly to

the mechanics of elections and politicking. What they avoid confronting is a national climate of reluctance to change, in which both the left and the right cling to old myths and canards, and right-wing extremism finds room to prosper.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

In identifying the National Front as a racist and xenophobic ad venture whose doctrine "risks ruining France, its values, its image," President Chirac called for a modernization of French political life that would address voting systems that favor political deals, the cronyism implicit in laws that allow politicians to hold

multiple offices and the limited participation of women in government.

The Socialist Party, in response, said the ideas were reasonable, although insisting that it had advanced them first — and left the issue there.

But these steps appear to be just first aid for the severest of moral wounds. Under the circumstances, the ordinariness of the remedies proposed for the

See FRONT, Page 8

Chirac speech puts pressure on regional leaders to resign over deals with extreme right. Page 8.

### AGENDA

#### 3 Killed in Ambush At Arkansas School

JONESBORO, Arkansas (AP) — Two boys in camouflage ambushed a group of middle school pupils Tuesday as they assembled outside the school during a fake fire alarm. At least three people were shot and killed, and 12 were wounded, including two teachers.

Two suspects, aged 11 and 13, were taken into custody outside the Westside Middle School, and two rifles and other weapons were recovered, the Craighead County Sheriff's Office said.

The authorities would not say whether the suspects were pupils at the school, which has about 250 children in sixth and seventh grades.

#### The Dollar

	Tuesday 4 P.M.	previous close
DM	1.8282	1.8282
Pound	1.675	1.6791
Yen	130.275	130.475
FF	6.1268	6.1213

#### The Dow

	Tuesday close	previous close
+	88.19	8804.44
		8816.25

#### S&P 500

	Tuesday 4 P.M.	previous close
change	1105.85	1095.55
+70.1		

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#### Wall Street Decides To Doubt Oil Pact

The U.S. stock market rallied strongly Tuesday as crude-oil prices slipped on doubts that oil producers would honor their pledge to cut production to lift prices.


Crude prices backtracked Tuesday, and with them fears of inflation that had been stoked by the accord. Those fears lowered stock prices Monday.

Financial stocks were among the top gainers Tuesday, as low inflation tends to keep interest rates down. Where stocks go now depends largely on the performance of corporate earnings, analysts said.

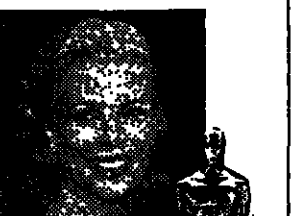
"It's kind of back to normal," one said. Page 15.

#### 1998 Oscar Winners

A roundup of the 70th Academy Awards, Page 26



- Best picture: *Titanic*
- Best actor: Jack Nicholson, *As Good As It Gets*
- Best actress: Helen Hunt, *As Good As It Gets*
- Best supporting actor: Robin Williams, *Good Will Hunting*
- Best supporting actress: Kim Basinger, *L.A. Confidential*
- Best director: James Cameron, *Titanic*
- Best foreign film: *Character*, The Netherlands



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Tokyo	2.500 CFA	Spain	225 Ptas
U.S. Coast	1.250 CFA	Tunisia	1.250 Dh
London	1.250 U.K.	U.A.E.	10.00 Dh
Kuala Lumpur	700 RM	U.S. M.L. (Eur.)	\$1.20







## THE AMERICAS

## Two-Pronged Executive Privilege: Protect Clinton and Slow Starr

By John M. Broder  
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton's decision to invoke executive privilege in the Monica Lewinsky investigation was both an effort to protect the presidency and to slow the independent counsel's criminal inquiry, say lawyers in the investigation. White House officials and independent analysts.

At issue were high constitutional questions involving the president's right to confidential advice and cold political calculations. The president's advisers concluded that the potential political costs of appearing to stonewall a criminal investigation were outweighed by the benefits of delay and the need to preserve the confidentiality of White House deliberations, members of the president's defense team say.

The president's lawyers know they can tie up the investigation by Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, for months as the two sides argue the doctrine of executive privilege before the courts. The potentially critical grand jury testimony of the White House deputy counsel, Bruce

Lindsey, has already been delayed for more than a month as the president's attorneys conducted preliminary negotiations with Mr. Starr before the formal assertion of privilege on Friday.

Even if Mr. Clinton ultimately loses the privilege argument before the Supreme Court, the momentum of Mr. Starr's inquiry will have been slowed and his task of reconstructing any White

## NEWS ANALYSIS

House efforts to contain the Lewinsky scandal will have been made more difficult.

A high-stakes constitutional debate over executive privilege could take weeks or months to wind its way through the courts, blocking Mr. Starr from possibly crucial questioning of key witnesses.

Conceivably, Mr. Starr's work could drag on beyond the midterm elections in November. If it did, Democrats would hope to pick up sufficient seats in Congress to fend off any attempt at impeachment.

Delay could also exacerbate what opinion polls show is considerable public impatience

with Mr. Starr's inquiry and dislike of his tactics, possibly yielding a pro-Clinton backlash. Several Republicans in Congress have already said they would be extremely reluctant to open impeachment hearings unless Mr. Clinton's public support began seriously to falter.

The privilege claim also extends to Sidney Blumenthal, a White House communications adviser, who refused to answer questions before Mr. Starr's grand jury about his conversations with the president and Hillary Rodham Clinton about the independent counsel's investigation.

Mr. Starr opposed the president's move to limit the testimony of Mr. Lindsey and other aides. He has argued that they possess information relating to possible obstruction of justice and witness tampering in his investigation into whether Mr. Clinton carried on a sexual affair with Ms. Lewinsky and then induced her to lie about it. Mr. Clinton has denied the accusations.

Now that executive privilege has been invoked, Mr. Starr will be forced to assert that the testimony of senior White House advisers is central to his case without knowing exactly what information they can provide.

Mr. Starr will have to prove that not only is the advisers' testimony necessary, but that he cannot obtain the information through other, less intrusive means.

"It's like a search warrant," one legal adviser to the president said. "There must be a showing that there is some kind of evidence there."

The delay arising from the privilege debate also serves the president's political purposes, lawyers and advisers said. The legal argument will take place behind closed doors, free from the prying eyes of reporters and Republican partisans in Congress. It will not be the tense public battle that Richard Nixon fought to prevent disclosure of the Watergate tapes.

The decision to invoke the privilege, made formal in a closed hearing before Judge Norma Holloway Johnson of Federal District Court, was the result of a spirited debate among the president's aides and attorneys over several weeks. It centered not on whether to invoke the privilege but on the scope of the privilege to be asserted.

The argument was won by the hard-liners on the president's legal team, who insisted that both executive privilege and lawyer-client privilege

applied to discussions between the president and his senior advisers. The president's lawyers broadened the claim to include discussions among White House advisers, even when the president was not present, lawyers said Monday. One analyst said that the White House appeared to have calculated that there would be little public penalty to pay.

"This is a very unusual circumstance in which the claim of privilege carries very little political risk for the president," said Peter Shane, a constitutional authority and dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

"The president's opponents say the invocation of privilege raises the specter of concealment or cover-up, but the polls don't seem to show that the public cares very much about that," Mr. Shane said. "When Nixon was making these claims, people not deeply versed in the concept of executive privilege said that if he was covering up a burglary, that shouldn't be secret. But Clinton is covering up a consensual sexual liaison, the people seem to be saying, more power to him; that's not illegitimate. They seem to think that this is secrecy where secrecy is O.K."

## An Associate Of Ron Brown Cites Funding Link to Trade

By Edward Walsh  
and Peter Slevin  
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — An indicted woman who was a business partner of former Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown testified in federal court that Mr. Brown complained to her about what he described as a White House-directed scheme to offer U.S. businesses places in overseas trade missions sponsored by the department in exchange for campaign contributions to President Bill Clinton and the Democratic Party.

Mr. Brown died in a plane crash in Croatia in 1996 while leading a trade mission.

The woman, Noland Hill, who on March 13 was indicted by a federal grand jury on charges that she diverted more than \$200,000 from companies she controlled to finance her shopping spree, made that assertion in an affidavit and testimony in a civil suit against the Commerce Department by Judicial Watch, a conservative group that is seeking to establish a link between the trade missions and campaign contributions.

"Ron told me that domestic companies were being solicited to donate large sums of money in exchange for their selection to participate on trade missions of the Commerce Department," Ms. Hill, a close friend of Mr. Brown, said in the Jan. 17 affidavit unsealed Monday.

"Ron expressed to me his displeasure," she said, "that the purpose of the Commerce trade missions had been, and was, being perverted at the direction of the White House."

Ms. Hill also asserted that Mr. Brown told her he had been instructed by a former White House chief of staff, Leon Panetta, and the current deputy chief of staff, John Podesta, to delay production of documents sought in the Judicial Watch lawsuit until after the 1996 election and not to comply with court orders in the case.

A White House spokesman, Jim Kennedy, said, "Ms. Hill's allegations regarding Leon Panetta and John Podesta and the White House are false in every respect."

Mr. Kennedy quoted Mr. Podesta as saying, "The only thing accurate in Ms. Hill's affidavit with respect to me and my conduct is the spelling of my name."

From his home in California, Mr. Panetta said of Ms. Hill's allegations: "It's crazy. It's absolutely false."

Mr. Brown, a former Democratic National Committee chairman, was killed in a plane crash in Croatia in 1996 while leading a Commerce Department trade mission. The trade missions are highly valued by U.S. companies for the access it gives them to foreign markets.

Judicial Watch filed its lawsuit to force the Commerce Department to produce documents on how participation in the trade missions was decided.

The testimony did not include the names of any businesses that Ms. Hill said were asked for contributions in return for a trade mission spot.



Noland Hill, leaving federal court in Washington after testifying in a civil case, during which she said Ron Brown had told her that the White House had sold places on overseas trade missions for campaign donations.

## POLITICAL NOTES

## Indians Want Place On Clinton Board

DENVER — American Indians angered by their exclusion from President Bill Clinton's race advisory board disrupted a town meeting here.

"It was a slap in the face when we were left off the advisory board," said Darius Smith, an Indian who was a panelist for the Monday night town meeting, which was attended by members of the board.

Protesters shouted down board members, and dozens of people in the audience walked out.

Judith Winston, executive director of the President's Initiative on Race, angered the protesters when she said there was no room for them on the board.

"It was not intended to represent the composition of the United States — we can't have that with only seven people" on the board, Ms. Winston said. (AP)

## Perot Loses Ruling On 1996 Debates

WASHINGTON — The Federal Election Commission has ruled unanimously against Ross Perot's claim that he should have been part of the final televised debate of the 1996 presidential campaign.

The commission gave no explanation for its decision, which was

made public Monday. The 5-to-0 decision overruled the commission's general counsel, Lawrence Noble, who had asserted that the privately financed Commission on Presidential Debates and the Bill Clinton and Bob Dole campaigns had violated the law by excluding Mr. Perot.

Election law allows corporations to contribute to staging the debates as long as participation is determined by "objective criteria." Mr. Noble said that the debate commission used subjective and vague standards to decide which candidates qualified.

Russell Verney, chairman of the Reform Party created by Mr. Perot in his second presidential bid, said the decision shows "that the Republican and Democratic political appointees on the FEC turned a blind eye and a deaf ear to justice."

The commission members are appointed by the president on recommendation from congressional leaders. (WP)

## Quote/Unquote

Mark Green, who is seeking the Democratic nomination to run against Senator Alfonse D'Amato, Republican of New York, of the efforts by Mr. D'Amato to appeal to Democratic voters by distancing himself from conservative causes he once supported: "Even a cat only has nine lives — and he's in his 11th. They won't buy his act, once we have a nominee who can defeat him. He gives 'disingenuous' a bad name." (NYT)

## Shielding the First Lady

## Side Issue Emerges on Her Quasi-Official Role

By Susan Schmidt  
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton's claim of executive privilege in the Monica Lewinsky investigation is intended in part to prevent prosecutors from inquiring about conversations that the White House aide Sidney Blumenthal had with Hillary Rodham Clinton, according to sources familiar with the matter.

Mr. Clinton has invoked executive privilege in an effort to block Mr. Blumenthal and Bruce Lindsey, a deputy White House counsel, from having to answer certain questions before the grand jury examining whether the president engaged in perjury or obstruction of justice in the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit.

Mr. Clinton is also asserting attorney-client privilege to bar Mr. Lindsey from being required to answer some questions presented by the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr.

The central question in the dispute between Mr. Starr and the White House concerns the scope of a president's ability to protect the confidentiality of communications within his administration. Yet the involvement of Mrs. Clinton also raises the side issue of how the quasi-official role of first lady fits into the constitutional framework, a problem that has arisen regularly since she moved into the White House in 1993

with plans to restructure the nation's health-care system.

Her emergence in the executive privilege fight — which was the subject of closed-door oral arguments last week — also underscores the extent to which Mrs. Clinton has been involved in White House efforts to contain any political and legal damage from the allegations that her husband engaged in sexual relations with Ms. Lewinsky and other women.

The White House apparently maintained that Mr. Blumenthal's talks with her were protected from prosecutors under the same principle that covers discussions among White House officials about how to advise the president.

An appeals court ruled last year in a case involving Mike Espy, the former agriculture secretary who has since been indicted on corruption charges, that executive privilege extends not only to communications involving the president himself but also to those of senior advisers. The question now may be whether the first lady counts as such an adviser in a legal sense.

"The reality is first ladies are part of the policy-making process of the White House even though they don't have the official capacity," said Mark Rozell, a political scientist at American University who has written a book on executive privilege. "Conceivably a case can be made that a first lady could be privy to conversations of a confidential nature."

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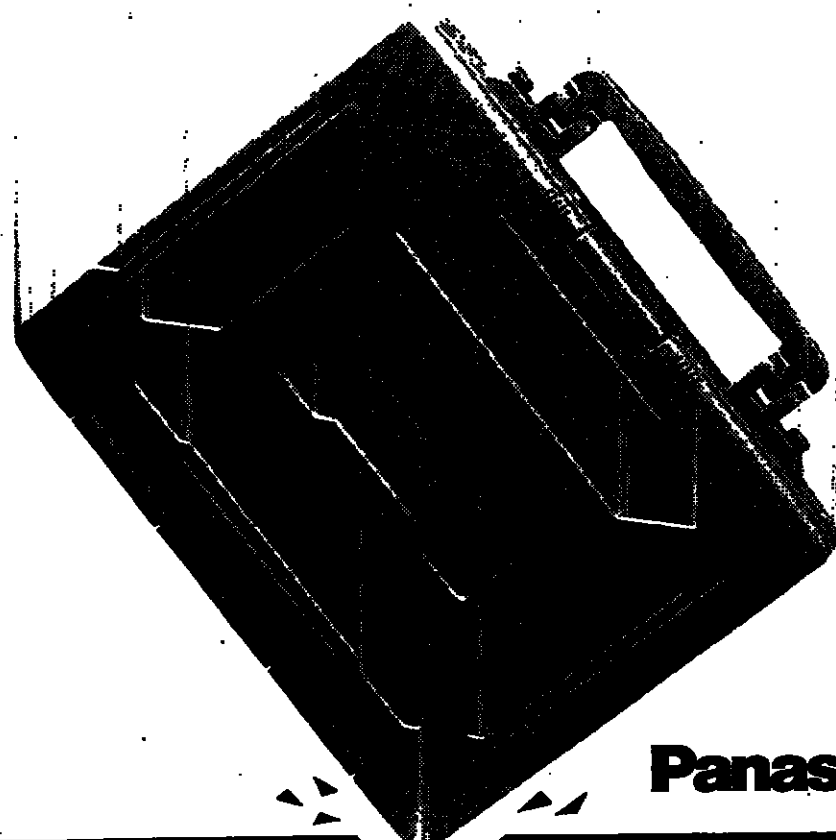
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## Away From Politics

Federal advisers have selected the influenza strains they think most likely to threaten the United States next winter and directed vaccine makers to include protection against those strains in shots for 1998-99. (Reuters)

Leo Jones was electrocuted in Florida for the sniper murder of a police officer. Mr. Jones had challenged the constitutionality of Florida's use of a 75-year-old electric chair. (AP)

The Boy Scouts are not covered by California civil rights laws, the state Supreme Court ruled. It deemed the group not to be a business and therefore free, like any private club, to exclude homosexuals and atheists in its membership policies. (AP)

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## ASIA/PACIFIC

# Burma's Bumpy Ride Toward a Free Market

## New Rice Policies Sow Anger and Confusion

By Thomas Crampton  
International Herald Tribune

PEGU, Burma — In the future, San Thauang hopes everything in Burma goes the way of beans.

San Thauang, a lifelong rice farmer, started growing lentils about five years ago, after the government announced that beans could be sold for export. He has expanded his crop every year instead of planting more of the rice that he was being forced to sell at a discount to the government.

In the midst of the rice harvest in November, however, the government announced a new policy: All rice sales would be voluntary, taking place on the open market.

The move was intended to make the government more popular among the rural population and push the economy toward a free-market system. It ended in failure when farmers withheld their rice from the markets because the harvest was poor and kept what they had for their families.

Though it was badly communicated and hastily executed, the liberalization of rice sales offers a look at the military government's faltering efforts to move Burma away from a socialist-style command economy.

When Burma dismantled a segment of the state-planned system of agriculture in 1988 after the current military government took over, bean exports quintupled in less than a decade. In

opening up the rice market in a similar manner, government planners hoped the fertile Irrawaddy River delta could be harnessed to lift the nation out of poverty in an agriculture-based economic boom, along the lines of what happened in Thailand.

Instead, policy flip-flops have left farmers angry and bewildered and some of them afraid they may go hungry this year.

"This year, the rice-collection system was different in every region," San Thauang said recently in his fields near Pegu, northeast of Rangoon. "We still had to sell a quota of rice to the government here, but I met some farmers from Rangoon district who said they did not have to sell any quota at all."

For years, Burma's farmers had been required to sell 12 baskets of rice per acre at a discount to help feed the country's civil servants and soldiers.

Even during the most bountiful harvests from the 14 acres (nearly six hectares) that he rents, San Thauang has had difficulty meeting the quota and still keeping enough rice to feed his family.

"This year it was even worse because of flooding," he said, so when given the option not to sell their rice, most farmers did not.

The result was rice shortages. Some analysts estimate that the government managed to buy less than one-third of the rice it needed before being forced to abandon the open-market system.

"If the authorities hear me say this,



Instead of rice, many Burmese farmers have opted to grow beans, here being winnowed, for the export market.

they will be angry, but the fact is that we were told we did not have to sell rice," one of San Thauang's neighbors said. "But then in January, they threatened to send me to jail if I did not bring baskets of rice to the government depot."

Government officials acknowledge there were difficulties with the new method but say they are determined to press on with reforms.

"Whenever you introduce a new system, people are reluctant and do not want to do it," said Brigadier General Maung Maung, a cabinet minister.

More than 60 percent of the country's population is involved in agriculture, so any changes of policy regarding crops have far-reaching political consequences.

Another cabinet minister, General

David Abel, said the government was determined to stick to reforms of rice sales.

At present, rice is considered a strategic crop with only limited internal trade allowed and no exports, apart from shipments sold by the government. These restrictions and the quota system have led to declining output.

Burma was the world's largest rice exporter in the years after World War II, but the country is expected to export almost no rice this year.

A measure of government's determination to get the state out of the economy, analysts said, will come over the next few weeks as the planned liquidation of unprofitable government joint ventures takes place.

Founded in the early 1990s to help develop various sectors of the economy, including construction, marine products and office supplies, the companies began as entities 50 percent owned by the government.

Because little interest has been shown in buying out the government's remaining shares in the failing companies, it was recently announced that the companies would have their assets auctioned off this month.

"If these companies really are liquidated, it will mean some more of the government's tentacles in the economy have been hacked off," a foreign investor based in Rangoon said. "This would really be a boost for the private sector."

## BRIEFLY

### India Nationalists Elect New Speaker

NEW DELHI — India's Hindu nationalist-led government scored its first victory in Parliament on Tuesday, installing a lower house speaker of its choice ahead of what is shaping up to be a close confidence vote this week.

But the election of Ganti Mohan Chandra Balayogi, a lawmaker from a regional party that broke ranks with the opposition this week, prompted an outcry from opposition groups.

Deputies voted with their voices in favor of Mr. Balayogi, of the Telugu Desam Party, who was backed by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

The opposition Congress (I) Party and the United Front coalition, from which Telugu Desam has split, had proposed that the former speaker, Purno Sangma, be reappointed. The speaker's post is normally settled by consensus between the ruling and opposition groups.

The opposition did not insist on a vote count. (Reuters)

### Tornado in India

NEW DELHI — A tornado tore through several villages in eastern India on Tuesday, killing 56 people and injuring at least 1,000, a news agency said.

Sixteen people died after a school building sheltering villagers collapsed in Balasore district in Orissa state, the Press Trust of India said.

The twister killed 40 other people in neighboring Midnapore district in West Bengal state, the Press Trust said. The tornado injured at least 1,000 people in Midnapore. (AP)

### Macau Aide Killed

MACAU — A gunman killed a senior government official outside a hotel on Tuesday in the latest slaying linked to gang warfare over gambling in this Portuguese enclave near Hong Kong.

The police said the gunman escaped after shooting Francisco Amaral, the No. 3 man in the government's gambling regulatory agency.

Mr. Amaral, 45, died instantly from a single shot to the neck outside the Lisboa Hotel in downtown Macau, the police said. (AP)



President Kim announcing changes Tuesday at the intelligence agency.

## Seoul Purges Its Powerful Spy Agency

Agence France-Presse

SEOUL — South Korea's powerful intelligence agency began a housecleaning Tuesday as prosecutors expanded an investigation into allegations that its agents made secret deals with North Korea aimed at helping the former government party cling to power.

"The Agency for National Security Planning plotted to use North Korea to prevent the then-opposition from winning the presidential election, as it has done before," President Kim Dae Jung said Tuesday. He added that the agency "must not be used for political purposes in the future." Mr. Kim was the first South Korean opposition candidate ever to win the presidency, when he triumphed in the December election.

The president made the statement as

the agency was dismissing 28 of its 38 top officials to reform its management.

"To prevent the agency from intervening in politics again, all but those who have stayed away from politics were replaced," a senior agency official said.

In particular, the official said, political appointees linked either to former President Kim Young Sam's son, Kim Hyun Chul, or to politicians with intelligence backgrounds were weeded out. The agency will also halve the size of its department of domestic political affairs.

The purge was seen here as a bid by the new government to reform a powerful agency whose past has been tainted by conspiracies, corruption and human rights violations.

Lee Jong Chan, the agency's new director, has already dismissed all three

deputy heads. He also pledged that the agency would concentrate on collecting overseas economic information and on monitoring North Korea.

The reforms were precipitated by the expanding inquiry into allegations that the country's former ruling camps and North Korea had orchestrated a smear campaign against Mr. Kim.

The agency's former chief, Kwon Young Hae, slashed himself with a blade during questioning Saturday by prosecutors. He was recovering in a hospital, officials said.

The government and prosecutors have said they will investigate about 20 politicians of both the governing and opposition parties. Five agency officials have already been arrested on charges of being part of the anti-Kim smear campaign.

## BOOKS

### BEHIND THE MASK: The IRA and Sinn Fein

By Peter Taylor. 431 pages.  
\$29.95. New York: TV Books.

Reviewed by  
Warren Hoge

FORGETFULNESS has not come easily to the police officer recollecting the deadly "Bloody Friday" bombings of downtown Belfast by the Irish Republican Army in 1972, no easier than it has to anyone else who lived through the terror gripping Northern Ireland for the past three decades.

"A couple of days later, we found vertebrae and a rib cage on the roof of a nearby building. The reason we found it was because the sea gulls were diving into it. I've tried to put it at the back of my mind for 25 years."

Ireland is unable to let history sleep. These memories are ugly and persistent ones, the results of deeds of hard and purposeful men that have little of the "terrible beauty" Yeats found in the Irish uprising against the British in 1916.

People are shot down on their doorsteps with spouses and children as witnesses; they are spirited away by masked nightriders and found later, bound and trussed, with bullet holes in their heads; they are blown apart by car bombs in crowded town centers; they are battered for straying into neighborhoods where people practice a form of Christianity different from theirs.

You can't tell one side from the other. On one occasion, when hooded gunmen stopped a bus and asked what religion people were, the Roman Catholic driver got off thinking he would be

killed, only to find his own life spared while his 10 Protestant passengers were shot to death. These mean events have happened in a land unsurpassed in its capacity to romanticize, demonize and distort.

Protestants, who predominate in the North, generally wish to see the province remain part of Britain, while Catholics lean toward a relationship ranging from loose affiliation to outright unity with the Republic of Ireland to the south.

"Behind the Mask: The IRA and Sinn Fein" looks at the organization that has attracted the most attention, the Catholic underground Irish Republican Army and its political wing, whose Gaelic name means "We Ourselves."

Peter Taylor is a journalist who has covered Northern Ireland since his first horrific assignment there, to write about the "Bloody Sunday" killings of 14 Catholic civil rights marchers in Londonderry in 1972 by heavily armed British paratroopers. His exposures of the beating of IRA suspects by British security forces bought him credibility with the republican movement, and "Behind the Mask" profits from it, producing firsthand testimonials from tight-lipped men.

The book is based on a television documentary shown last year on the BBC in Britain and on PBS in the United States; that provenance is at once its strength and its weakness. The publisher believes that "much of the finest intellectual property in the world is being developed for television," a notion that can produce some good book-length reporting but doesn't assure a smooth story line. The

spare, disciplined quotes of the combatants in "Behind the Mask" have a dramatic intensity that the densely detailed linking material doesn't, and the pacing stutters.

Taylor keeps his professional distance. He reports convincing evidence that Gerry Adams was once an active member of the IRA, an admission that the Sinn Fein president himself has never made. And to those who are tempted to cast the republican struggle in a heroic light, Taylor is unsparing in his detailing of ruthless incidents like the killing of a 19-year-old British soldier by a gang of pro-republican women who scratched his face into a bloody pulp as he cried out for this mother and then held him until an IRA gunman arrived to kill him.

Among the revelations in the book is the fact that unknown to its own Parliament, Britain maintained direct communication with the IRA leadership over a 20-year period through an unnamed man from Londonderry. Taylor discloses through the minutes of clandestine IRA meetings that as long ago as 1975 the British were dis-

cussing an eventual withdrawal from Northern Ireland, a concession, suggesting the future dismantling of the United Kingdom, that even today could not be uttered in public by a British official.


IRA men tell Taylor of the ease of getting weapons for their cause in the United States, and the author voices his suspicions that American money raised for humanitarian causes was diverted to the purchase of arms.

Taylor doesn't try to examine the psychology of those who took up the gun, but he does capture the inevitability of that destiny for so many young Catholics growing up in the dreary housing projects of Belfast.


Of his joining Europe's most violence-prone group in 1971, Tommy McKearney said: "Coming from the community I come from, and came from at that time, with the history we have, being in the IRA is not seen as a criminal activity, and I didn't see it as criminal. I didn't see it any different from any other man joining an army to take part in a defensive war work." New York Times Service

## BEST SELLERS

The New York Times			
This list is based on reports from more than 2,000 bookstores throughout the United States. Weeks on list are not necessarily consecutive.			
FICTION			
This Week		Last Week	Wks. on List
1	THE STREET LAWYER, by John Grisham	1	5
2	PARADISE, by Tom McLean	2	9
3	COLD MOUNTAIN, by Charles Foster	3	37
4	BLACK AND BLUE, by Anne Quinlan	4	6
5	MEMOIRS OF A GENTLEMAN, by Arthur Golden	7	18
6	THRILL, by Jackie Collins	5	3
7	THE CAT WHO SANG FOR THE BIRDS, by Lillian Jackson Braun	6	5
8	BLOOD WORK, by Michael Connelly	11	4
9	NUMBERED ACCOUNT, by Christopher Reich	10	4
10	GUILTY PLEASURES, by Lawrence Sanders	16	2
11	FEAR NOTHING, by Dean Kooten	8	8
12	BIRTHDAY LETTERS, by Ted Hughes	9	5
13	THE WINNER, by David Baldacci	14	14
14	THE GOD OF SMALL THINGS, by Arundhati Roy	31	
15	MIRACLE CURE, by Michael Palmer	1	
NONFICTION			
1	TALKING TO HEAVEN, by James Van Pugh	1	11
2	TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE, by Mitch Albom	3	22
3	MIDWINTER IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL, by John Berendt	4	192
4	ANGELA'S ASHES, by Frank McCourt	2	79
5	THE MILLONAIRES NEXT DOOR, by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko	5	61
6	THE LONG HARD ROAD OUT OF HELL, by Marilyn Manson with Neil Strauss	6	4
7	INTO THE AIR, by Ken Krakauer	10	46
8	CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD: Book 1, by Neale Donald Walsch	12	66
9	THE PERFECT STORM, by Sebastian Junger	9	41
10	JAMES CAMERON'S TITANIC, by Ed W. Marsh	7	7
11	JACKIE AFTER JACK, by Christopher Anderson	8	4
12	THE MAN WHO LISTENS TO HORSES, by Monty Roberts	13	31
13	SPIRIT CYCLE, by Howard Kurtz	1	
14	CITIZEN SOLDIERS, by Stephen E. Ambrose	14	18
15	THE RAPE OF NANKING, by Liu Chang	11	8
ADVICE, HOW-TO AND MISCELLANEOUS			
1	SIMPLE ABUNDANCE, by Sarah Ban Breathnach	1	102
2	DON'T WORRY, MAKE MONEY, by Richard Carlson	2	13
3	MEN ARE FROM MARS, WOMEN ARE FROM VENUS, by John Gray	3	229
4	EAT RIGHT 4 YOUR TYPE, by Peter J. D'Adamo with Colleen Wilby	4	2
5	SPOCE GIRLS, by Mike Rodden	5	1



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**Herald Tribune**

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

## Israel Calls to Push Le Chief Says Sp

Jerusalem, March 24 (AP) — Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, called Tuesday for a "push" to elect a new speaker of the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, after the current speaker, Shimon Peres, was elected to the office of president.

Netanyahu said the election of Peres to the presidency was a "disappointment" for the government and the opposition. He said the government would not support Peres's re-election to the Knesset.

Peres, 77, was elected to the presidency in a runoff vote on Tuesday. He defeated the incumbent, Ezer Weizman, in a close contest. Peres's victory was seen as a setback for the government, which had hoped to win a majority in the Knesset.

Netanyahu said the government would not support Peres's re-election to the Knesset. He said the government would not support Peres's re-election to the Knesset.



Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel, calls for a push to elect a new speaker of the Knesset.







## EUROPE

## With Rules Yet Unwritten, Race for London Mayor Is On

By Anne Swardson  
Washington Post Service

LONDON — The auditorium was packed, the four panel speakers well dressed and sincere. Questioned on the evening's topic, the governing of London, they answered politely and carefully.

For a while. Then one panelist accused the two Conservative Party speakers of a last-minute conversion on a particular issue. A Tory jabbed back at a speaker from the "New" Labour Party — the national governing party's reform-minded centrist wing: "Dear, it's lovely to see you coming out in your real colors, you're so 'Old' Labour."

More than 18 months before voters go to the polls, and before the campaign ground rules are even set down, the race is on to become London's first elected mayor.

When Prime Minister Tony Blair proposed the post last summer, many hoped it would be free of partisanship. No chance. Nearly all the major candidates are figures in the national Conservative or Labour parties. The most likely match at this point: the novelist and politician Jeffrey Archer, a Tory, vs. the actress and politician Glenda Jackson, a Labourite and official in the Blair government.

There is wide agreement that the office of mayor of London will change the face of British politics.

"My view," said Tony Travers, director of the Greater London Group at the London

School of Economics, "is the politician who is elected will rank as high as a senior cabinet member. It could be a very important alternative center of power."

London's 5 million voters, he said, will be the largest bloc in Europe voting for one leader except for the people of France when they elect their president. Voters in most European nations elect only their legislative representatives, who then select the national leaders.

The political process begins this week, when the Blair government will unveil its proposals for the powers of the mayor's office and the London assembly to be elected at the same time. The plan will move through Parliament, and London voters will approve or reject it in a referendum May 7. The measure is expected to pass easily, and the first election is expected in late 1999.

The campaign is either a chance for the Conservatives to regain ground lost in their defeat by the Labour Party last May or a chance for Labour to enact at municipal level the decentralization it has pushed in Scotland and Wales. London voters are not preponderantly for one party or another; the race is wide open. Even the third party, the Liberal Democrats, is given a chance to win.

Possible candidates for the Tories include Mr. Archer, an irascible figure who has some popular support but is disliked by the media, and Chris Patten, the former Hong Kong governor who is in the south of France writing his

memoirs. From Labour, most frequently mentioned are Ms. Jackson (who says she will not comment on a candidacy until after the referendum) and Ken Livingstone, a leftist former chairman of the Greater London Council.

That Labour-dominated council was the elected body governing London until then-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher did away with it in 1985 because it opposed her politically.

Whoever wins will preside over a sprawling agglomeration with roughly the same population as New York City but, at 1,620 square kilometers (620 square miles), twice the size. The new mayor is expected to be given authority over public transport, roads, police, firefighting, urban regeneration and, to a lesser degree, arts and the environment.

"The idea is that he or she will become a focus of activity on all fronts," said Simon Jenkins, a columnist for The Times and a leading activist for creation of the mayor's post. Mr. Jenkins is rumored to be a candidate himself, he says he will not comment until after the referendum.

London is booming. But Mr. Jenkins said the city had suffered from being run by various fragments of the national government. The subway system has deteriorated, and the police forces are perceived as poorly run.

"When you scratch away at the surface, there are things that need doing," Mr. Jenkins said. "London couldn't stage a bid for the Olympic Games because there was no one to

bid." A few years ago, some in the capital wanted London to compete for the summer Games in 2000, which will be held in Sydney.

Another example is that 72 government agencies play a role in managing London's transportation system. A bicycle path that was designed to go through the city stops, starts and is interrupted in places because of uncommitted local jurisdictions.

Many say the cliché that London is a collection of villages is still true and will stay true even after a mayor is elected. It is a conglomeration of 32 boroughs plus the City of London financial district, which has appointed its own Lord Mayor each year for more than 800 years. That system will continue.

Mr. Archer, a former deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, friend to former Prime Minister John Major and an informal adviser to Queen Elizabeth II — as well as a millionaire from his books — is one of the few to openly acknowledge candidacy for what he calls "a hands-on job."

He has an 89-person unpaid campaign team.

Ms. Jackson won two Academy Awards for her movie roles and — as the press has recalled frequently — played Elizabeth I in the 1971 film "Mary, Queen of Scots." She was elected to the House of Commons in 1992, became the opposition spokeswoman for transport and was picked last year by Mr. Blair to become transport minister.

## BRIEFLY



**COLLISION IN ITALY** — Cars blocking tracks near Florence on Tuesday after two trains collided, killing a passenger and injuring 36 others.

## General Strike Looms in Greece

ATHENS — Labor unions began turning up the heat on the Socialist government Tuesday, announcing a general strike over plans to streamline the economy and sell off state-owned firms.

The General Confederation of Greek Workers said it would call a 24-hour nationwide strike, probably April 9. The federation took particular aim at the government's plans for Olympic Airways.

The government has told the financially ailing airline it must save 250 billion drachmas (\$775 million) over five years or close down. (Reuters)

## Ireland Calls for Compromise

BELFAST — Ireland's foreign minister, David Andrews, called Tuesday for a speedy compromise in peace talks on the future of British-ruled Northern Ireland.

Mr. Andrews said he hoped a series of one-to-one meetings involving rival parties would yield progress toward a settlement by a deadline of April 9.

"We know what the fundamental and core issues are, and I think that we have to arrive now at a series of compromises arising out of these bilaterals," he said on the second day of a make-or-break three-week round of talks. (Reuters)

## Turkish Court Rebuffs Erbakan

ANKARA — The chief prosecutor Tuesday rejected a plea by former Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan for the Constitutional Court to reconsider its decision to close down his Islamic party.

Mr. Erbakan contended that the constitutional principle of a right to self-defense had been violated when the justices failed to ask him and other party leaders to defend their speeches and actions that were cited as reasons for the closure.

But the chief prosecutor, Vural Savas, ruled there was no legal standing for the appeal. "The Constitutional Court's decisions are final according to the constitution," he said. "Its decisions cannot be appealed." (AP)

## UN Envoy Prods Cyprus Rivals

ANKARA — The United Nations' special envoy to Cyprus expressed determination Tuesday to restart negotiations for the unification of the divided island.

"The search for a peace settlement must continue," the envoy, Diego Cordovez, said after meeting with Foreign Minister Ismail Cem of Turkey. "We shall not stop; we shall not let this situation continue for any longer."

The UN-brokered negotiations have been deadlocked since August. Mr. Cordovez met separately last week with Glafcos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, and Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader.

Mr. Cordovez said he would report the outcome of his mission to the UN secretary-general, Kofi Annan.

"Probably we will have also a report to the Security Council on this matter," he said, "and I would probably come back to the area quite soon in order to find a way to revitalize these negotiations." (AP)

## Antonio Ribeiro Dies, Was Primate of Lisbon

The Associated Press

LISBON — Cardinal Antonio Ribeiro, 69, the Roman Catholic Cardinal of Lisbon who was known for his efforts to modernize the powerful Catholic Church in Portugal, died Tuesday in a clinic in suburban Lisbon after a long battle against cancer.

Before his appointment as cardinal in 1971, he was a popular public figure through his weekly religious television programs from 1959 to 1967.

His discreet lobbying and moderate opinions in the turbulent period around the 1974 Revolution, which toppled the 41-year dictatorship, won him broad support in the church.

Beverly Cross, 66, British Playwright

LONDON (AP) — Beverly Cross, 66, the playwright and screenwriter who helped launch Dame Maggie Smith on her illustrious acting career and married her 15 years later, died at his home Friday.

The cause of death was not

announced, but he had recently been treated for aneurysms. Maggie Smith starred in his play "Strip the Willow" in 1960. The play did not get a London opening, but her career bloomed because of the strong impression she made in regional tryouts. They were wed in 1975.

Michael Reardon, 60, bartender to famous writers, mayors, stockbrokers, seamen, singers or any guy who dropped in off the street over the course of 30 years at the Lion's Head bar and restaurant in New York, died Sunday in Fall River, Massachusetts, where he was undergoing treatment for cancer.

Greg MacGregor, 85, a foreign correspondent who reported on the Korean War as well as economic and political developments in Southeast Asia during a 17-year career at The New York Times, died of cancer Sunday in Pompano Beach, Florida.

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EUROPE

# Albright Upbeat on Moscow Shake-Up

## U.S. to Continue 'Very Good' Relationship With Russia, She Says

COLOGNE — The U.S. secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, on Tuesday defended Boris Yeltsin's right to dismiss his entire cabinet and said the Russian leader was "in charge."

"We are obviously watching what is going on," Mrs. Albright said in Rome before meeting in Cologne with the Russian foreign minister. "The president is in charge and he has, as a democratically elected leader, the ability to change his team."

Mr. Yeltsin dismissed his government Monday, but most of the ministers were expected to keep their jobs, including Foreign Minister Yevgeni Primakov.

Mr. Primakov reassured Mrs. Albright that good relations with the United States remained a top priority.

"President Yeltsin has asked me to underscore the fact that Russia's foreign policy will remain unchanged and will not be affected by the changes in the government," Mr. Primakov said before escorting Mrs. Albright to a private dinner at which they planned to discuss the Kosovo crisis and other hot spots.

Mr. Primakov said the new government would push for early ratification of the START-2 arms treaty and seek to promote further cuts in strategic offensive weapons.

He also said the work of the U.S.-Russia economic commission, which was begun in 1993 under Vice President Albert Gore and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin would not be disrupted by Mr. Chernomyrdin's departure.

Mrs. Albright's meeting with Mr. Primakov preceded a gathering Wednesday of the Contact Group of major powers to discuss the Serbian crackdown on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo.

Mr. Albright said in Rome she was looking forward to "continuing what is a very good working relationship with the Russian Federation." Her positive tone came despite increasing differences between Washington and Moscow on international issues, including how to ensure that Yugoslavia's president, Slobodan Milosevic, complies with demands by the major powers that he withdraw special police units from Kosovo and start meaningful, unconditional negotiations with ethnic Albanians in the province. (Reuters, AP)

### A Surprise for Clinton

Thomas W. Lippman of The Washington Post reported from Washington: The scope of Mr. Yeltsin's housecleaning caught the Clinton administration by surprise, but President Clinton and other senior officials said they

had no reason to fear problems ahead in U.S.-Russia relations.

Administration officials said Mr. Yeltsin's decision to dismiss his cabinet was a matter of Russian domestic politics, and they are inclined to accept Mr. Yeltsin's assurances that the shake-up does not signal a change in Russia's foreign policy or a retreat from economic reform.

"We hope that the general direction of policy will be unaffected by this," Mr. Clinton said to reporters in Africa. "And I have no reason to believe that anything different will occur in a way that's at all adverse to the partnership we've been building with Russia."

U.S. officials who participated in working sessions with Mr. Chernomyrdin said they had no indication that the prime minister's days were numbered.

Through their economic commission, Mr. Gore and Mr. Chernomyrdin set up a network of officials in several cabinet departments and emphasized the development of personal relationships among those officials that could survive changes at the top. But when Russian officials encountered bureaucratic or political difficulties in carrying out agreements made in the commission, it was Mr. Chernomyrdin who was called on to get things done.



Italy's foreign minister, Lamberto Dini, greeting Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Rome on Tuesday.

# U.S. Faces Uphill Battle on Kosovo

By William Drozdiak  
Washington Post Service

COLOGNE — Secretary of State Madeleine Albright urged the major powers Tuesday to step up sanctions against President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia until he shows greater cooperation in defusing the conflict with the troubled province of Kosovo.

But as she arrived here Tuesday to prepare for a crucial meeting in Bonn on Wednesday with the six-nation Contact Group monitoring Yugoslavia, Mrs. Albright appeared to be waging a lonely campaign to persuade the other members of the group to sustain a tough attitude.

Only Britain shares the U.S. view that Mr. Milosevic, whose rump nation consists of Serbia and Montenegro, is more likely to respond to sticks rather than carrots in meeting the Contact Group's demands. These include a serious effort to restore political autonomy to 1.8 million ethnic Albanians, who make up 90 percent of Kosovo's population, and the withdrawal from Kosovo of special Serbian police units that killed 80 ethnic Albanians in a crackdown on separatists.

The other members of the Contact Group — France, Germany, Italy and Russia — have expressed varying degrees of satisfaction with Mr. Milosevic's behavior since the group agreed to sanctions against Yugoslavia at its previous meeting in London on March 9.

At that meeting, the group agreed to consider a comprehensive arms embargo against Serbia, a halt to supplying equipment that could be used for repression, a denial of visas to Yugoslav officials involved in the crackdown and an end to export

credits to Belgrade for trade and investment.

Since the meeting, the Serbian police units have been confined to their barracks and Albanian demonstrators have been allowed to conduct peaceful protests. Mr. Milosevic has also promised that Kosovo Albanians will soon be able to study at schools and universities for the first time since autonomy was rescinded eight years ago.

During a six-hour stopover to consult with Italy's foreign minister, Lamberto Dini, Mrs. Albright said these actions have not been sufficient to ease international pressure and called on the rest of the Contact Group to maintain sanctions until Yugoslavia complies fully with its demands.

"We have seen too many diplomatic efforts fail to believe that President Milosevic will respond to positive pressure alone," she said. "And if we give him even a shadow of a glimmer of a hint that he has done enough, he will assuredly do no more."

She insisted that Mr. Milosevic has stopped far short of doing what is necessary. "Serbian security police are digging in, not pulling out; Milosevic has still not committed himself to unconditional dialogue; aid workers continue to be harassed, and the list goes on," she said.

In contrast, Mr. Dini praised Mr. Milosevic as taking some steps in the right direction and said there was no reason for the group to be "entirely dissatisfied" with Yugoslavia's behavior over the past two weeks.

### Fighting in Kosovo

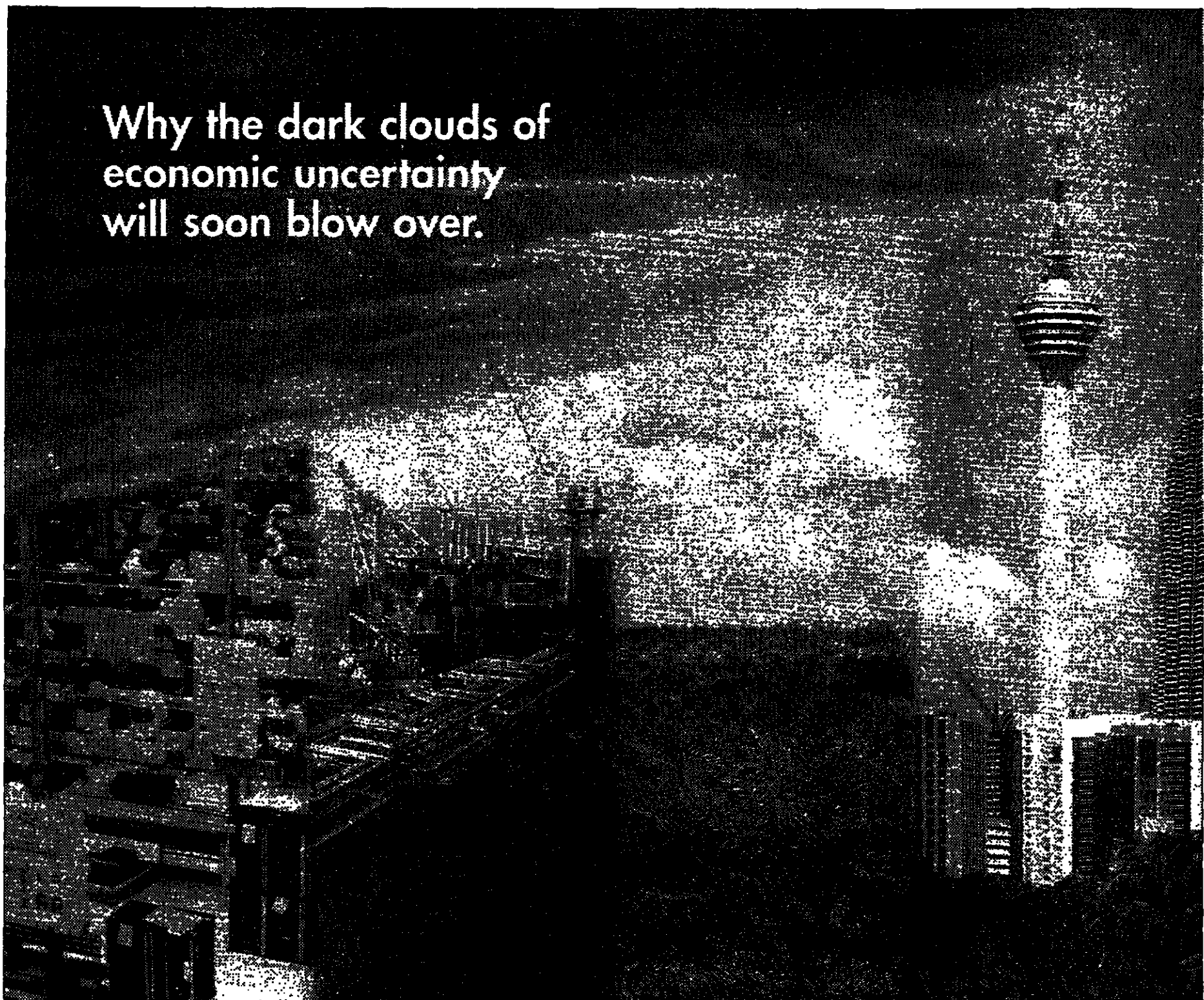
Fighting flared between Serbian police and ethnic Albanians in Kosovo on Tuesday, Reuters reported from Pristina, Yugoslavia. The ethnic Albanian

Kosovo information center accused the police of forcing Albanians in villages around Dubrava in western Kosovo to flee attack by heavy weapons.

The Serbian authorities

said they had retaliated when a policeman was killed and another seriously wounded in an ambush by ethnic Albanian guerrillas in Dubrava, 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the border with Albania.

Why the dark clouds of economic uncertainty will soon blow over.



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# MALAYSIA Bullish on Bouncing Back

# Papon a Scapegoat, Top Defender Says

Reuters

BORDEAUX — The chief lawyer for Maurice Papon, the accused Nazi collaborator, said Tuesday that charges against his client were "in shreds" and that the trial was a farce aimed at exorcising France's guilt for World War II collaboration.

The lawyer, Jean-Marc Varaut, lead attorney for the defense team, began his three-day final argument ahead of a verdict at the end of the week, telling the Bordeaux court that Mr. Papon was a scapegoat for France's bad conscience.

"This trial is a way of freeing us from our collective shame, of choosing a scapegoat," Mr. Varaut said. "But a simple court decision will not make Vichy go away. Papon is being tried because there is no one else."

Mr. Varaut said that although the press had demonized his client, six months of debate had succeeded in proving Mr. Papon's innocence. "The charges are in shreds," he said. "What was clarity has now become a cloud of questions."

Mr. Papon, 87, is accused of ordering the arrest for deportation of 1,560 Jews, 223 of them children, when he was the second highest-ranking official in the Bordeaux region and supervisor of its Service for Jewish Questions.

Mr. Varaut described the Vichy collaborationist regime as a "legal, republican state" and Mr. Papon as a civil servant who dutifully and appropriately respected it.

"One must understand the culture of these officials at the time, for whom the highest honor was obedience to the state," he said. "This love of the law anesthetized people's minds."

"He is responsible, but not guilty," he said.

In serving the Vichy regime of Marshal Philippe Petain, voted into power after the Nazis defeated and humiliated France, Mr. Papon may have helped carry out a plan to exclude Jews from society, but not to exterminate them, Mr. Varaut said.

"Vichy's anti-Semitism was one of exclusion, which aimed to take the Jews out of the civil service, teaching, law, medicine and journalism," he said. "But it was not Hitler's biological racism."

Mr. Varaut said no other contemporary tragedy had preoccupied historians and artists to such an extent, inspiring films and books "to the point of an overdose, which symbolizes the extent of our pain and our shame."

Civil plaintiff lawyers, whose week of final arguments concluded March 16, accused Mr. Varaut of historical revisionism.

"When he speaks of an 'overdose,' it is a negationist discourse," said Alain Jakubowicz, a lawyer for Jewish organizations. "After weeks of trying to appear legitimate, his true nature comes to the surface: He's a man of the extreme-right."

Mr. Papon went on after the war to serve as Paris police chief from 1958 to 1967, then as budget minister in 1978 until his wartime record surfaced in a newspaper report in May 1981.

The first charges were filed against him immediately afterward, but legal proceedings were repeatedly obstructed by the administration of President Francois Mitterrand, who was reluctant to see France's wartime collaboration dredged up.

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## LEGAL NOTICE

## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:  
TOSHOKU AMERICA, INC.  
Debtor

Case No. 97 B 48335 (JHG)  
(Chapter 11)

## NOTICE FIXING LAST DATE FOR FILING PROOFS OF CLAIM

TO: ALL CREDITORS WITH CLAIMS NOT LISTED IN THE DEBTOR'S BANKRUPTCY SCHEDULES, OR WITH CLAIMS SCHEDULED AS DISPUTED, CONTINGENT OR UNLIQUIDATED, OR WITH CLAIMS IN AMOUNTS DIFFERENT FROM THAT LISTED IN THE DEBTOR'S BANKRUPTCY SCHEDULES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on December 24, 1997 (the "Petition Date") the above-named debtor (the "Debtor") filed a voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of the Title 11, United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York has entered an Order dated March 13, 1998 (the "Claims Bar Order"), directing all persons and entities with claims, as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101 (8), against the Debtor's estate and whose claims are not listed in the Debtor's bankruptcy schedules or whose claims are listed in the Debtor's bankruptcy schedules as disputed, contingent or unliquidated, or whose claims are in amounts different from that listed in the Debtor's bankruptcy schedules, to file proofs of claim and proper supporting documentation with the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court in substantial conformity with Official Bankruptcy Form 10, on or before MAY 12, 1998 (the "Bar Date").

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that any claim required to be filed pursuant to the provisions of the Claims Bar Order, and not filed prior to the Bar Date, shall be FOREVER BARRED FROM ASSERTING A CLAIM AGAINST THE DEBTOR AND THE DEBTOR'S ESTATE OR ITS SUCCESSORS OR ASSIGNS, AND THE HOLDER OF THE CLAIM SHALL BE BARRED FROM VOTING ON A PLAN OF REORGANIZATION (THE "PLAN") OR PARTICIPATING IN ANY DISTRIBUTION IN THIS CASE, BUT SHALL NEVERTHELESS BE BOUND BY THE TERMS OF THE PLAN CONFIRMED BY THIS COURT.

ALL PROOFS OF CLAIM MUST BE FILED WITH THE CLERK OF THE BANKRUPTCY OF THE BANKRUPTCY COURT, UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT, SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, ONE BOWLING GREEN, NEW YORK, NEW YORK, 10004-1408 ON OR BEFORE MAY 12, 1998 AND SERVED ON THE UNDERSIGNED COUNSEL.

SUCH PROOFS OF CLAIMS WILL BE DEEMED FILED ONLY WHEN THEY ARE ACTUALLY RECEIVED.

As used herein, the term "claim" means (a) right to payment, whether or not such right is reduced to judgment, liquidated, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, legal, equitable, secured, or unsecured; or (b) right to an equitable, secured or unsecured; or (c) right to an equitable remedy for breach of performance if such breach of performance gives rise to payment, whether or not such right to an equitable remedy is reduced to judgment, fixed, contingent, matured, unmatured, disputed, undisputed, secured, or unsecured.

Copies of the Claims Bar Order are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Office of the Clerk of Bankruptcy Court, United States Bankruptcy Court, Southern District of New York, One Bowling Green, New York, New York, 10004, at the Court's web site, <http://www.nysb.uscourts.gov>, and the Offices of the undersigned Counsel.

Dated: New York, New York  
March 13, 1998

SO ORDERED:  
St. Jeffrey H. Gallet  
JEFFREY H. GALLETT  
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE  
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT  
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Stanley J. Samorajczyk  
Attorneys for the Debtor

Doris Polk & Wardwell  
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OPINION/LETTERS

# A Bright Promise Lost: The Tragedy of Clinton

By Richard Cohen

WASHINGTON — Long before Joe Klein was outed as the author of "Primary Colors," he asked me what I thought of the book.

"Not much," I innocently replied. We were driving from New Hampshire to Boston at the time and I don't recall Mr. Klein veering across the median strip for in any other way giving away his secret. I do remember him saying, though, that the book reminded him of what we — some journalists — had once seen in Bill Clinton. I nodded to that.

Now, several years later, I have seen the movie based on the book twice, once as the terrific political comedy it certainly is, the second time as the political tragedy it is fast becoming.

The film contains precisely the sort of scenes that Mr. Klein was referring to when he mentioned Mr. Clinton's early promise: a frank speech to unemployed New Hampshire shipyard workers and another in which the candidate meets with adults enrolled in a literacy program.

Both scenes are about an emphasis on continuing education.

Now, it just so happens that in real life the real president has an education program before Congress, where it is going nowhere fast. Not only do the Republicans have an alternative plan, but they happen to control Congress. The Republicans, not the president, will determine



education legislation this year.

Even under the best circumstances, Mr. Clinton would be fast becoming a lame duck. But these are not the best circumstances. The president has yet to run the gamut of the Paula Jones civil trial and Kenneth Starr's criminal investigation. Even if he is exonerated in the Jones case and Mr. Starr takes no action, the fruits of the independent counsel's investigation will go to Congress.

Hearings may be held, impeachment demanded. For Mr. Clinton, some rough days lie ahead.

So the president, unlike any other president riding toward his political sunset, is not going to have the luxury of keeping an eye on history. Instead, he is going to have to keep an eye on his base — the very people who elected him. Significantly, that means women, especially feminists, and organized labor.

The unions beat Mr. Clinton last year on "fast track" trade legislation and, at one time, the president accused some Democrats of caving in to union pressure. Now maybe he will cave in. He can ill afford to alienate some of the very people he is going to need if he gets into a fight for his survival. In addition, he needs union money to help him elect an impeachment-proof Congress.

Similarly, it is not likely that the president will compromise with Republicans on legislation

# In Today's 'New Family,' Children Often Suffer

By Rachel Elboim-Dror

JERUSALEM — The "new woman" is on her way. She is assertive, climbing the corporate ladder, sharing the political, economic, social and cultural world with men. At long last she is beginning to be seen and heard in the corridors of power.

In the vast continents of Asia and Africa, most people are

## MEANWHILE

caught up in the daily struggle for survival, unaware of the emergence of the new woman. But in the West she is ubiquitous.

She is creating a new family culture that has not been fully grasped by society or social scientists. Yet its impact will strike soon, catching us unprepared.

The traditional family is disappearing in the middle class. Instead of a family made up of breadwinning man and caregiver/housekeeper woman, a bipolar structure of two breadwinners — supposedly equals — is emerging. But "equality" is tricky.

Some women try to accomplish both roles, fulfilling the traditional obligations of mother, spouse, cook, housekeeper and sexual partner while at the same time holding a responsible job and competing in the marketplace.

Other women capitalize on both worlds, expecting men to support them while they chant feminist slogans and demand that men share in the housework and in the upbringing of the children.

The real victims of this new family culture are the children. While men and women struggle to establish a new modus vivendi, children pay the price for the confrontation.

In the traditional family, the hierarchy was firmly established and the division of labor was clear. Now, the clash of two family heads demanding priority for their professional and personal interests breeds a culture of selfishness, which rocks the supportive structure essential for children's growth.

In the conflict between the parents, the children's needs are often dispensed with. Both parents are too busy with self-fulfillment to attend to others, especially when those others happen to be children, who are unable to articulate their needs and demand their rights.

## Good Day Care

RESEARCH on U.S. day care has produced a shocking report card. The quality of care in the majority of centers is poor to mediocre.

We know the ingredients that lead to high quality: better staff-to-child ratios, staff education, specialized training and improved teacher wages.

For too long, the debate has centered on whether day care is good or bad for children.

The debate is over. Recent federal research has shown that children who receive high-quality day care are no different from children raised at home.

The challenge to the United States is not whether we should have day care for our youngest citizens, or whether the federal government should be in the business of providing day care, but how well we can do it.

—Michael D. Kaplan, a professor of child psychiatry at Yale's Child Study Center, commenting in *The Hartford (Connecticut) Courant*.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### On Cloning

Regarding "Common Sense About Cloning" (Opinion, March 16) by Steve Jones:

Mr. Jones's article suggests that scruples about human cloning are religious or moral and are fostered by zealots. This is not necessarily true; I can think of at least two objections of a different nature.

The basic principle of evolution is that species adapt to the ever-changing environment through random gene mutations. We are what we are because the survivor

qualities of the fittest were transmitted to their progeny through their genes (along with random gene mutations).

That we live longer today — more because of medical advances than because of fitness — may be partly due to the fact that survival in the modern world is better ensured by brain than muscle.

Cloning freezes this natural process, since genes are identically copied from one individual to his or her offspring. The world, however, keeps changing.

The second objection is social.

One does not embark on a long and expensive research program without a fair idea of where it leads. I am not certain that the "extreme limit" conditions — one has to be prepared for the worst — of a clone society have been seriously studied.

I agree that human cloning will not be stopped. What must be stopped are the hysterical condemnations, from whatever pulpit, that prevent a serene, methodological approach to such a sensitive topic.

LUCIO MARGHERITA,  
Paris.

### Clinton's Behavior

Many Republicans appear taken aback by the American people's support for Bill Clinton and claim that once obstruction of justice has been shown such support will vanish.

This is wishful thinking. The American people perceive what the politicians try to obfuscate when they liken Mr. Clinton to Richard Nixon: that there is a world of difference between concealing criminal behavior and concealing legal behavior.

If Mr. Clinton should deny un-

der oath that he had eaten 10 hot dogs the night before, that should hardly be cause for impeachment.

HENRY BLUMENFELD,  
Gif-sur-Yvette, France.

E. J. Dionne ("It's Time to Wrap Up the Capital Sideshow," Opinion, March 20) asks if we will spend the next 22 months talking about Mr. Clinton's sex life. Shouldn't that be the next 34 months, since the president's term ends in January 2001?

BERNARD SINSHEIMER,  
Boulogne, France.

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## INTERNATIONAL

## U.S. Plays Anti-Libya Card in Prague

Americans Are Warned Not to Stay at 2 Hotels Linked to Tripoli

By Peter S. Green  
International Herald Tribune

PRAGUE — Two of Prague's top hotels have been blacklisted by the U.S. government because they have been purchased by a company with purported links to the government of Libya, and American travelers have been warned that they could face criminal penalties if they stay at them.

The Hotel Forum and the Hotel Panorama were bought this week by the Corinthia Group, a Maltese company with a Libyan partner.

An advisory issued by the U.S. Embassy in Prague said the United States considered the Corinthia Group, and therefore its hotels, to be the property of the Libyan government.

The United States made a similar

warning a year ago when Corinthia bought a hotel in Budapest.

The company owns hotels in Malta, Turkey, Tunisia and Hungary, as well as five other hotels in the Czech Republic. The Middle East Economic Digest has reported that the chairman of Corinthia, Alfred Pisani, plans to build a \$9 million, 300-bed hotel in Tripoli, Libya's capital.

The U.S. Embassy said American travelers and companies could be prosecuted for eating at, staying in or doing business with any hotels owned by Corinthia. The same penalties apply to a travel agency owned by the company, Czech International Travel.

The embassy said: "Financial transactions with those establishments, including payment for lodging and meals, are prohibited by the Libyan Sanctions Regulations," an American law that

prohibits any contact with Libyan organizations. "U.S. persons, organizations or businesses violating this prohibition may be subject to criminal and civil penalties under U.S. law."

The Hotel Forum is popular with businessmen and upscale tour groups. President George Bush stayed there when he visited Prague in 1990 and U.S. Commerce Secretary William Daley stayed there in January, just before the hotel was sold to Corinthia.

A spokeswoman for the Treasury Department in Washington said Corinthia was on a list of companies or people the United States contends are acting on behalf of the Libyan government. But she said the United States was not planning mass arrests of American tourists in Corinthia-owned hotels.

"We are trying to stop the Corinthia Group, which we have determined is acting on behalf of the Libyan government, from receiving financial benefit from U.S. citizens," said the spokeswoman, Beth Weaver. "It's not the individual traveler."

The United States tightened its restrictions on doing business with Libya after investigators linked the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, to agents working for the secret service of Moammar Gadhafi.

The UN Security Council has required all member states to freeze any assets owned or controlled by the Libyan government or any Libyan entity.

Christopher Smith, a lawyer in Prague with Lovell, White & Durand, which represented Corinthia in the deal, said Mr. Pisani objected "strenuously" to the embassy warning, saying the group has only "a minority Libyan shareholder."



Janet Museveni, the wife of the Ugandan president, holding a parasol over Mr. Clinton on Tuesday while they watched schoolchildren dance.

AFRICA:  
Past U.S. 'Sins' Noted

Continued from Page 1

"very carefully" to President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda earlier in the day when the two leaders met; and Mr. Museveni discussed "the history of Africa, the history of Uganda, the future, what mistakes had been made in the past."

"Perhaps the worst sin America ever committed about Africa," Mr. Clinton said, "was the sin of neglect and ignorance."

He added, "We have never been as involved in working together for our mutual benefit, for your children and for ours as we should have been."

Mr. Clinton was speaking at the Mukono village school, nestled amid banana trees and coffee plants outside Kampala. The president and Hillary Rodham Clinton, escorted by Mr. Museveni and his wife, Janet, were greeted by schoolchildren in brilliant pink uniforms, who clapped and sang a welcome.

Inside the school, the children demonstrated their education by naming the U.S. president, and pointing to the United States and Uganda on a map. "Congratulations on your lessons, very impressive," Mr. Clinton said. "Thank you for making me feel so welcome." The Clintons and the Musevenis later joined some of the children in a dance.

Mr. Clinton also used the occasion to announce proposals for \$182 million in aid programs for education, health and improved food security for Africa. The proposals included a \$120 million assistance program for African schools and universities, a \$61 million Africa-wide program aimed at improving quality, safety and distribution of crops, and a new \$1 million grant to fight malaria and other infectious diseases.

Earlier Tuesday, Mr. Clinton and Mr. Museveni met privately for about 30 minutes, and then as part of larger bilateral delegations. Mr. Clinton said he had spoken about trade and investment with Mr. Museveni, whose market-oriented economic reforms have won U.S. praise as a role model for Africa, and discussed "improving political conditions."

A U.S. official, speaking at the Nile Conference Center in Kampala where the traveling White House press corps was housed, said the United States would continue to press Uganda to open up its "no-party" political system. But he said the country had made significant progress toward democracy under Mr. Museveni, who took power in 1986 after the murderous regimes of Idi Amin and Milton Obote.

"He's made a lot of progress," the official said. "This place was a disaster. In the basement of this building people were tortured to death by the hundreds."

Mr. Clinton also struggled to keep the Monica Lewinsky sex scandal from intruding on his role as a statesman, telling reporters at a photo session that the issue should only be discussed "back home."

## Robber Who Used False Ads Gets 15 Years

Reuters

NEW YORK — A man who lured foreign businessmen to New York through newspaper advertisements for blue jeans only to rob them has been sentenced to 15 years in prison, the Bronx district attorney's office said.

Nelson Merlino of the Bronx pleaded guilty this month to four counts of robbery, three in connection with a trio of Israeli businessmen lured to New York by advertisements placed in the International Herald Tribune soliciting large orders of U.S.-made blue jeans from overseas clothing importers.

When the businessmen came to a

warehouse in November 1996 to close the deal with Mr. Merlino, they were bound and robbed at gunpoint of \$38,180 in cash and a watch worth \$7,000, the district attorney's office said Monday. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison, to run concurrently with a term he is already serving on a weapons charge.

Mr. Merlino was also found guilty of a 1995 knife-point robbery of a Danish businessman after the two argued about the price of a shipment of blue jeans.

Mr. Merlino followed the man into his motel room and robbed him of \$10,000 in cash.

## IRAQ: 'Father' of Germ Weapons Is Jailed

Continued from Page 1

might have obtained such a document.

As for the papers Mr. Hindawi was reportedly holding, Iraqi officials said they had turned them over to the UN Special Commission, which is charged with dismantling the country of nuclear, chemical, biological and other weapons of mass destruction. But the documents have not proved useful to UN inspectors, who had already obtained copies of most of them.

Mr. Hamdoun said Mr. Hindawi was available to be interviewed by UN representatives at any point and noted that the inspectors had already spoken to him "dozens of times."

But Mr. Tucker said Mr. Hindawi would never be able to talk freely in a prison and stressed the importance of debriefing him in a neutral setting. UN inspectors have seized hundreds of thousands of pages of Iraqi documents through their inspections across the country, but they need insiders, he said, to put together pieces of the germ weapons puzzle.

The 1995 defection of President Saddam Hussein's son-in-law, Lieutenant General Hussein Kamel, gave the inspectors their biggest breakthroughs in understanding the Iraqi germ program. (General Kamel was killed after he returned to Baghdad.) Western officials had hoped that Mr. Hindawi could

provide similarly valuable testimony. Mr. Tucker said the United Nations could well learn more from a candid interview with Mr. Hindawi than from the inspections of presidential sites that the United Nations is now planning.

The arrest comes at a delicate moment in relations between the United Nations and Iraq.

The United States nearly went to war last month to gain the inspectors access to germ plants and sites that contain information about them. Since then the United Nations has started to test Mr. Saddam's pledge to permit the inspection of presidential sites and other sensitive places.

Richard Butler, chairman of the special commission, arrived in Baghdad on Sunday to plan the first inspection of such sites by a special group of scientific inspectors and UN diplomats.

Mr. Butler could not be reached for comment on the arrest or on whether he intended to raise the issue with Iraq. But Western officials in New York said Iraq had disclosed Mr. Hindawi's arrest to a team of UN inspectors at meetings that opened last week in Vienna.

Iraqi officials asserted that Mr. Hindawi was fleeing to an unidentified "rogue" nation and described his arrest as part of its effort to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. One senior Western official dismissed that claim as "laughable."

Details about Mr. Hindawi's career are sketchy. A microbiologist by training, he earned his doctorate from Mississippi State University in Starkville in 1969. Associates said he speaks fluent English. Iraq is said to have begun its germ weapons program in the early 1970s. The effort went poorly, and some of those involved were imprisoned by the government.

In 1983, weapons inspectors say, Mr. Hindawi wrote a secret report that outlined for top officials of the ruling Ba'ath Party how the program could be turned into a major military asset with large-scale production of weapons of mass destruction.

The paper, written when Iraq was losing its bitter war with Iran, has never been surrendered to weapons investigators, but Iraqi officials have told the United Nations that it had a huge impact.

Within a year, the Iraqi officials said, the regime ordered the directors of the poison-gas program to create a separate germ weapons research complex at a site called Al Muthanna. Designated a presidential priority, the project at Al Muthanna was exempted from the usual spending and personnel constraints, Iraqi scientists have told former inspectors.

Mr. Hindawi has told associates that he joined the effort only because he believed his country was in danger of being defeated by Iran.

Iraq has told the inspectors that at various times from 1989 to 1991, Mr. Hindawi was the managing director of Al Hakam, the sprawling complex that became Iraq's primary germ weapons production installation.

Scientists at Al Hakam made tons of anthrax, which was loaded at another site into bombs and missile warheads. Mr. Hindawi was said to have left his job as a consultant to the weapons program in late 1989 or early 1990, shortly before the Gulf War.

Former inspectors said Mr. Hindawi was removed from his post at Al Hakam after quarreling with senior officials over financial irregularities in the program. He was sent to a university in Baghdad, where he has taught since.

## ■ Talks Leave Butler Optimistic

Mr. Butler ended two days of talks in Iraq on Tuesday by praising its new mood of cooperation, which he said could help him swiftly finish his work, Reuters reported from Baghdad.

Mr. Butler said his talks with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz had shown a welcome change from their last rancorous meeting, in January. "Today was a light-year different," he said. Progress had been made toward accounting for missile warheads and chemical agents that Iraq says it has destroyed.



AN OPEC MEMBER RUNNING DRY — Cars and trucks waiting in line for fuel at the Nigerian capital, Abuja. Nigeria, a member of the oil cartel OPEC, has been suffering a fuel shortage for a week.

## CLINTON: Just by Visiting, the President Shows African Countries Some Rare Respect

Continued from Page 1

equates. Transportation links among African countries remain primitive.

That is a formula certain to worry potential foreign investors. They want predictability and order, which are hard to guarantee even in the new Africa.

The chosen White House instrument is the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, which the House of Representatives approved this month. Senate action is pending.

The legislation forms the background of this trip. It seeks to promote the privatization of government enterprises across Africa, with sales of state assets open to all comers, including foreigners. In return, African countries could export to the United States without the

hindrance of tariffs or quotas. Critics argue that the act would allow foreign corporations to buy African resources at fire-sale prices and exploit low-wage African labor.

"This bill nakedly and unqualifiedly promotes the interests of American business," said one vocal foe, Randall Robinson of the lobbying group TransAfrica. "It should be called the African recolonization act, because the United States and Europe have the money and would grab the assets."

Mr. Clinton has chosen an itinerary that will take him to countries the administration sees as success stories — countries described in carefully modulated terms by Susan Rice, the influential assistant secretary of state for African affairs, as "pretty good

performers, economically and politically, all things considered."

One aim, she said in an interview in Washington, is to show Americans "the side of Africa that's not bodies floating down rivers."

The president himself was less guarded in remarks broadcast throughout the continent before his arrival, talking of "an Africa whose political and economic accomplishments grow more impressive each month."

That is a very carefully edited Africa. It excludes Somalia, where 18 U.S. soldiers died five years ago trying to end chaos and famine; it still has no government. It excludes Angola, where the United States is promoting peace negotiations that have not brought peace. It excludes the Congo, although Mr.

Clinton will meet with its leader, Laurent Kabila, during a stop in Uganda. Mr. Kabila seems to be drifting into the cruel and corrupt pattern of the man he deposed only last year, Mobutu Sese Seko, and the decision to include him on the schedule came only after a heated argument in the administration.

Most important, it excludes Nigeria, which, with South Africa, is the most important country in sub-Saharan Africa in terms of population and resources.

Administration officials speak enthusiastically about what Mr. Clinton called "the new face of Africa" and about a new breed of democratically inclined leaders. But Mr. Moose, warning that the picture is spotty, describes such comments as "a pretty thin banner they're spreading."

## Baghdad Denies Report It Planned To Poison Britain

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq denied accusations in Britain on Tuesday that it had threatened to smuggle deadly anthrax to the United Kingdom.

A tabloid, The Sun, reported that President Saddam Hussein plotted to flood Britain with the toxin. The newspaper theorized that the toxin could be hidden in duty-free bottles of alcohol, cosmetics, cigarette lighters and perfume sprays.

The newspaper reported that a March 18 intelligence document contended that the Iraqi government had plotted to smuggle large quantities of anthrax into "hostile countries."

A spokeswoman for the office of Prime Minister Tony Blair confirmed Monday that the document was authentic.

As a result, Britain's air and sea ports have been put on alert, the spokeswoman said.

A minister at the Home Office, Mike O'Brien, said Tuesday on the BBC that he did not believe "there is any imminent threat to Britain, but from time to time in this dangerous world, there are warnings which our very capable security apparatus is able to respond to."

"We're vigilant," Mr. O'Brien said. "But there are certainly no grounds for scaremongering over this or for frightening people. This is not the first terrorist warning that we've had and I suspect it won't be the last, and we are able to deal with these things."

He added that there was no "likelihood that Saddam or Saddam's agents would be likely to put the anthrax in duty-free in the vague hope that some British tourists would pick it up."

Colonel Terry Taylor, a former weapons inspector for the United Nations who last year uncovered evidence of a biological weapons program, agreed that it was difficult to deliver anthrax in a dangerous form.

"If it was really being sent like this, in bottles, it's quite difficult to keep alive and to get it out in a form that might actually kill somebody," he said.

## MALAYSIA: Major Drive Against Illegal Immigrants From Indonesia Is Under Way

Continued from Page 1

staying, to prison sentences and caning, the Sunday Times reported.

"We are literally a nation besieged, and a lot of manpower and resources have to be deployed to block their entry until the waves of such immigrants subside," the newspaper quoted the unidentified prosecutor in the case as having said.

Earlier this month, Singapore's prime minister, Goh Chok Tong, expressed concern over the immigrants. "If we see them in large numbers, the situation is going to destabilize Malaysia and Singapore," he told a German newspaper in an interview.

In Malaysia, in addition to eight boat skippers sentenced to be caned on Monday, the police have used the country's Internal Security Act, which allows authorities to hold suspects without trial, for those thought to be harboring illegal aliens.

Analysts say that Malaysia's high-profile anti-illegal immigrant campaign,

which is widely covered on television and is featured daily on newspaper front pages, is as much an effort to turn back boatloads of illegal immigrants as it is to prevent others from ever launching.

"If we're pussyfooting and not sure what we're going to do, that will lead to more people coming, because they will think they can get away with it," said Abdul Razak Abdullah Baginda, executive director of the Malaysian Strategic Research Center, a government-linked think tank.

For many Indonesians, the incentives to leave their country are great. Hundreds of thousands have lost their jobs as the country's financial crisis has mounted. And even those with jobs would be likely to earn several times more money in such countries as Malaysia or Singapore.

Not only are wages higher in those countries, but both the Malaysian ringgit and the Singapore dollar have appreciated sharply against the Indonesian rupiah in recent months — a boon to those

Indonesians repatriating their salaries.

For years, Indonesians came to Malaysia to work in the construction industry or plantation sector, or as maids. During the recent boom years, a labor shortage required Malaysia to import hundreds of thousands of foreign workers. Today, there are about 2 million foreign workers in the country, making up about 20 percent of the total work force.

"We needed them," said Mr. Razak. "We knew they were illegal workers, but they were putting up our buildings. It was a dilemma we had to live with for 15 years."

Foreign workers were helping change the face of modern Malaysia, supplying almost all the low-cost labor for such large-scale projects as the Kuala Lumpur International Airport. Once there were 25,000 illegal immigrants working at the site, according to Kamaruddin Hamzah, police chief of Selangor, the state where the airport is situated.

## RUSSIA: Yeltsin Gives Foreign and Defense Ministers a Reprieve

Continued from Page 1

up chronic wage and pension arrears, but Mr. Chernomyrdin's government failed to resolve the problem.

Mr. Yeltsin's decision to turn his government upside down has not been fully explained, and on Tuesday fingerpointing continued. Newspapers that back Mr. Chernomyrdin targeted Boris Berezovsky, an industrialist, as the plotter, while Mr. Berezovsky's television channel mocked those who put him at the center of the action.

## ■ Warnings of Instability Ahead

Many liberal commentators warned that Mr. Yeltsin's cabinet purge could destabilize Russia just as the economy

starts to rebound. The Associated Press reported from Moscow.

"The political crisis in Russia will slow down the fulfillment of the goals set out by Viktor Chernomyrdin's government, such as promoting economic growth, curbing inflation and carrying out tax and social reform," the liberal daily Segodnya said.

The reasons for Mr. Yeltsin's move remained obscure, but many commentators said a central motivation could have been his awareness of Mr. Chernomyrdin's growing political ambitions. Backing that view, the pro-government Our Home Is Russia party said Tuesday that Mr. Chernomyrdin would most likely be their candidate for president in the 2000 election. Mr.

Chernomyrdin "could become a unifying figure," said the party's deputy chief, Vladimir Ryzhkov.

But others suggested that Mr. Chernomyrdin's dismissal would be the effective end of his political career, because he has been so closely tied to the president that he will be unable to rally support on his own. "We can pronounce the once-superpowerful premier politically dead," said the business daily Kommersant.

Mr. Ryzhkov noted that "the entire political situation in Russia will change" if Mr. Yeltsin seeks a third term. There has been speculation that he might do so if the Constitutional Court rules that his first term, which began under the old Soviet Constitution, does not count toward Russia's two-term limit.

## Rome Offers a Bill To Cut Workweek

Reuters

ROME — The Italian government approved a draft bill Tuesday to cut the workweek to 35 hours from 40 hours by 2001, Industry Minister Pierluigi Bersani said.

The bill, which the center-left government promised in a bid to satisfy its far-left allies from the Refounded Communist Party but which has been rejected by employers, now goes to the lower house, the Chamber of Deputies. If approved there, where Prime Minister Romano Prodi's government relies on the former Communists for its majority, the bill goes to the Senate.

SPRIN  
PARKS, PAL  
AND GARDEN  
IN BLOOM

the Thames is also a great place to see the world's most famous bridges. The Tower Bridge, the London Eye, and the Houses of Parliament are all within walking distance of each other. The area is also home to many of the city's most famous museums and galleries, including the British Museum and the Tate Modern.

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# SPRING IN LONDON

## PARKS, PALACES AND GARDENS IN BLOOM

Spring is the perfect season to discover London.

London comes alive in the springtime, when its royal parks and gardens are in bloom and tourists and city-dwellers alike flock to riverside attractions along the Thames. With its huge array of theaters, museums, galleries, restaurants, pubs, special exhibitions and shopping venues, spring is also the time to explore the city's neighborhoods on foot, away from the crowds and bustle of traffic. Visitors can discover for themselves "the New Britain," with its emphasis on contemporary art and design, as well as taking in its historical sites.

### Royal attractions

Buckingham Palace, the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey provide perfect starting points for visiting St. James's Park, Green Park, Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, with their boat rides, outdoor cafés, royal galleries and magnificent displays of spring flowers. There's a chance to feed the ducks, geese and rare birds or even enjoy a leisurely picnic on the lawn. St. James's Park adjoins the Horse Guards Parade, where the Changing of the Guard is staged each morning at 11 A.M. From May 18 to 20, there is also the Trooping of the Colour at 10 A.M. in preparation for the Queen's birthday celebrations.

### Along the Thames

The River Thames is also a great source of activities. The annual Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race, which runs from Putney Bridge to Mortlake, is being held on March 28 at 1:15 P.M.

Riverboats are available from Westminster Pier in the center of the city to Richmond and Kew. Richmond Park, west of London, offers rich wildlife in 2,000 acres of grassland. Nearby are the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, where exotic greenhouses and 10 different climatic zones house one of the world's greatest collections of exotic flowers, trees and shrubs. A slightly longer excursion takes the visitor further up the Thames to Hampton Court, Henry VIII's magnificent Tudor Palace set in extensive gardens.

The riverboat also travels east to Tower Bridge and the Tower of London, which spans 900 years of British history. Once past the famous Beefeater guards, the visitor has a chance of seeing the Crown Jewels, the Royal Armories and Traitor's Gate. Tower Bridge's elevators operate up to 10 times a day, from 10 A.M. to 6:30 P.M., including weekends, and provide a magnificent panoramic view of the city. (closed on Good Friday.)

Farther east, again via riverboat, is historic Greenwich, which 2 million tourists visit each year. It has been chosen as the focal point for Britain's millennium celebrations. The world's last surviving tea clipper, the Cutty Sark, is a short walk from the pier, as is the National Maritime Museum, the Palladian-style Queen's House (designed by Inigo Jones in 1616 for Queen Anne of Denmark) and the Old Royal Observatory, built by Sir Christopher Wren in 1675 on the Greenwich Meridian.

All are set in Greenwich Park, London's oldest royal park, with its formal gardens, rolling hills and a small boating lake,



Trafalgar Square — site of Nelson's Column — is surrounded by historic buildings, such as St. Martin in the Field and the National Gallery.

as well as panoramic views across the Thames to the Isle of Dogs, the City of London and the West End. Back at the pier, an elevator takes the visitor down to the Brunel Tunnel, which crosses under the Thames to Island Gardens, where it connects with the Docklands Light Railway.

### The New London

The elevated link is one of the best ways to see the "new" London of postmodern buildings — including the 800-foot Canary Wharf office tower — bridges, marinas, tidal basins and café-lined quays that have replaced the 18th- and 19th-century docks. The Visitors' Center, near Crossharbour station, can arrange guided tours.

The railway is also an excellent way to return west for a

walking tour of the City of London, site of St. Paul's Cathedral, parts of which are surrounded by the ancient Roman-built London Wall. It is home to narrow Dickensian alleyways and mews, Georgian houses and a range of Victorian pubs.

The huge Barbican arts complex provides a range of waterside restaurants and cafés, suitable for all the family, as well as a conservatory of exotic plants, film, theater, concerts by the London Symphony Orchestra and exhibitions of contemporary art, sculpture and design. Its special theme this year is "Inventing America," and tickets to these events, which include showings of classic Hollywood movies and Broadway musicals from April 4 to April 19, are available at a special discount price. ●

## SHOPPING EMPORIUM TO THE WORLD

Whether you're looking for Stilton cheese or Italian design, London's got it.

Regent's Street, Bond Street, High Street Kensington and Knightsbridge are world renowned shopping sites in London. Harrods, Liberty and Fortnum & Mason are among the most famous emporia: Harrods' Food Hall is a must for those seeking the best in smoked salmon. Stilton cheese and English shortbread as well as more exotic offerings. Those interested in unusual carpets and rugs should visit Liberty's Uzbek Carpet Exhibition at the end of April.

Most Londoners settle for Oxford Street, where department stores like Marks & Spencer, John Lewis and British Home Stores abound, often with reasonable prices for a range of house-

hold goods, clothes, cosmetics, jewelry, toys and electronic equipment.

New designer boutiques on or near Regent Street include L'Occitane, Gymboree, Karen Millen, Adolfo Dominguez and Emmanuelle Schvili, as well as Moschino's flagship store on Conduit Street.

Garrards & Co., the Crown Jewellers, Hamleys, Austin Reed, Burberry, The Scotch House, Aquascutum, Lillywhites, Waterford and Wedgwood, Crabtree & Evelyn and Dolland & Aitchinson all have warrants to supply the Royal Household.

For antiques, there is Portobello Road and, on Wednesdays and Saturdays, Camden Passage in Islington. If

an appetite overtakes you during a shopping foray, head for Lola's in The Mall above the antiques arcade or choose from scores of other acclaimed restaurants farther along Upper Street in Islington. South of the Thames, near Tower Bridge, design guru Sir Terence Conran's Gastrodome boasts five excellent eateries featuring French, Italian and other international cuisines, along with London specialties and fine wines in a waterside setting. Bonhams, Christie's and Sotheby's also hold regular auctions of antiques and decorative arts in the spring.

Christie's in South Kensington is planning its first-ever sale of postwar Italian design on June 3. ●

## THE TREASURES OF RUSSIA, VINTAGE CARS AND MORE

A look at London's cornucopia of museums.

New exhibits this spring included the opening on March 19 of four newly restored rooms at the National Gallery. On the same day, the Royal Academy opened "The Art of Holy Russia," which runs until June 14 and includes superb icons. "Bonnard," featuring nearly 100 works, continues until May 17 at the Tate Gallery. "Watercolors" by Turner starts on May 8 at The British Museum. The museum's other major exhibition this spring is "Rimpa from the Idemitsu Collection, Tokyo," beginning May 13. More than 70 examples of the 17th-century Japanese art form will be displayed, including paintings, calligraphy and ceramics.

The Victoria and Albert Museum is celebrating the costumes and textiles of Pakistan in "Colors of the Indu" until March 29. It will be followed from April 9 to mid-July by the "Power of the Poster," with works ranging from classic Toulouse-Lautrec images to the controversial advertisements for Benetton.

At the Science Museum and the Natural History Museum, visitors can view a dinosaur exhibit, play "The Human Biology" game or take a voyage of discovery in "Visions of Earth." For car and design enthusiasts, the Design Museum near Tower Bridge is opening "Ferdinand Porsche," from April 9 till the end of August.

Museum buffs will be interested in the London White Card, which offers entry discounts to all the city's museums. Call 0171 734-4555 for information. ●

## THE SEASON'S HOTTEST SHOWS: GOING OUT ON THE TOWN

London's West End theaters draw visitors from around the world to shows like "Les Misérables," "Miss Saigon," "Chicago," "Starlight Express," "Cats" and "Jesus Christ Superstar." In March, the Society of London Theater is highlighting three premieres. "Timeless," by Scottish author David Greig, opened on March 17. "Sleeping Around," a collaboration between four British writers, will open in the last week of March. David Hare's "The Judas Kiss," has already caught the media's attention, not least because the role of Oscar Wilde is played by Hollywood actor Liam Neeson. Based on the story of Wilde's betrayal by his friend and lover, Lord Alfred Douglas, it was produced by Islington's Almeida theater and is showing at the Playhouse, Islington's Kings Head theater, which, like the Almeida, is known for "off-Broadway" shows that later move to the West End, is previewing "Liebesraum" by Israel Horowitz April 21-24.

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• 24-hour Travel & Transportation  
• 24-hour Concierge & Butler  
• 24-hour Housekeeping  
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• 24-hour Security  
• 24-hour Emergency Services  
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• 24-hour Restaurant & Bar  
• 24-hour Spa & Wellness Center  
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• 24-hour Concierge & Butler  
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• 24-hour Housekeeping  
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• 24-hour Security  
• 24-hour Emergency Services  
• 24-hour Medical



## A Moment of Transformation

### Dutch Late Bloomer Wins Oscar for Foreign Film

By Alan Riding  
New York Times Service

PARIS — Mike van Diem likes to dwell on his anxieties about moviemaking to explain why, at 39, his career as a director is only just getting under way. Yet in his first feature film, this slim good-natured Dutchman showed anything but insecurity. He took on the challenge of adapting a classic Dutch novel, Ferdinand Bordewijk's "Character," then raised the stakes by altering the plot to suit his needs. At the very least, he risked upsetting Bordewijk fans.

The gamble paid off. The movie, which recounts the power struggle between a man and his illegitimate son, each looking for the other's love but also intent on destroying the other, drew good audiences and generally enthusiastic reviews when it was released in the Netherlands last April. One negative review even proved happily prophetic.

"The critic in NRC Handelsblad took a cheap shot," van Diem said. "He said: 'Character' is going to win an Oscar nomination. That's almost for sure. And that's my way of saying how bad this film really is."

Still, the director can cheerfully live with this slight after the film won the Academy Award for best foreign-language film of 1997, beating out movies from Brazil, Russia, Spain and Germany. "This film was getting nowhere and now it's getting everywhere," he said after the Oscar ceremonies Monday. "It's a dream come true."

Of course, the foreign-language prize is not exactly the moment that millions of television viewers wait for in the awards ceremony. Yet it remains a much coveted honor, one that helps draw American audiences and gives an award-winning film special kudos in other markets. Even a nomination helps greatly. In the past six weeks, "Character" has been acquired for distribution in 16 countries.

Still, as van Diem well knows, prizes can also lead to frustration. He came to movies by stages, as a film buff, as a film critic and, finally, at the age of 26, as a student in film school. Then, four years later, in 1989, his graduation film, "Alaska," a 45-minute thriller, seemed to set him on the path to success, winning awards, including a Golden Calf,



Mike van Diem with Sharon Stone and his Oscar.

the top Dutch movie honor, for best short film and a Student Academy Award in the United States.

In 1991, a Dutch producer, Laurens Geels, took him on as an assistant director and "script doctor" and urged him to read "Character," a 1938 novel, with a view to a film version. But van Diem was not ready. Instead he wrote an original English-language screenplay called "Across the Street," which was bought by a Hollywood producer but never made into a film. "It was all rather disappointing," van Diem said. "I found myself four years out of film school without having had a professional directing job."

HE swallowed his pride and agreed to direct a 50-minute episode of a popular Dutch television series, "Called to the Bar." It proved a good experience all around, and he went on to direct seven more episodes, in the process meeting many Dutch writers, directors and actors and, crucially, regaining confidence in himself as a director. Early in 1995, he mentioned "Character" again to Geels and this time they were ready.

Set in a Dickensian Rotterdam of the 1920s and 1930s, the movie begins with Katakreuffe, a newly graduated lawyer (played by Fedja van Huet), being held on suspicion of murdering Dreverhaven,

the much-feared court bailiff (Jan Decleir). Under interrogation, the young man then tells his story. He is the fruit of a single encounter between Dreverhaven and a housekeeper, Joka Katakreuffe, who refuses to marry the son but incapable of offering him love. Dreverhaven decides to prepare him for life the hard way. When Katakreuffe's first business venture fails, he finds he owes money to a bank headed by his father, who promptly takes him to bankruptcy court. Katakreuffe decides to become a lawyer and is hired as a clerk by a law firm headed by the kindly De Gankelaar (Victor Low). But he continues to be haunted by his father.

Low, who also appeared in "Antonia's Line," said van Diem showed no signs of being a rookie in the making of "Character."

"First, I think he was very courageous to take on a film of almost operatic proportions in a country where people don't applaud those who step out of line," Low said in a telephone interview from Amsterdam. "But he managed to handle the big theme of two people incapable of sharing love in a big way. He just went for it. If there were doubts, they were only those he had on his mind."

Still, van Diem had fresh cause for worry after the movie was released in the Netherlands. His friends, including Jean van de Velde, the director of a hit soccer comedy, "All Stars," assured him that "Character" would be the Dutch candidate for the Academy Award nomination. But when the submission committee met, it chose "All Stars" by six votes to five. Then, remarkably, van de Velde withdrew his film, arguing that "Character" stood a better chance. "It was an incredible, noble, amazing act of friendship," van Diem said.

With "Character" being released in the United States on Friday, the director must now confront the infamous resistance of American movies to foreign-language movies, although the record shows that an Oscar can give a subtitled film a lift. Van Diem is counting on that.

Collecting his golden statue Monday night, he even made a joke of it. "This ought to tell you that [the film] probably has, you know, like, damn stunning subtitles," he said, beaming with delight.



Liam Neeson as Oscar Wilde in "The Judas Kiss," David Hare's new play at the Playhouse.

## Tale of Wilde, Love and Betrayal

By Sheridan Morley  
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — "Let England" wrote Lord Alfred Douglas in 1937, "bear all responsibility for what she did to Oscar," and it can at least be said that we have not borne our responsibility in the one thing Wilde would most have dreaded: silence.

David Hare's "The Judas Kiss" (Playhouse) is certainly the best and most intriguing new play of the year thus far, even if it has its problems. What Hare has done brilliantly is to escape the usual plot through Wilde's life and trials from birth to the last days of illness in Paris. Instead, he has taken just two key moments that still cause most debate among the experts.

Hare's first act thus takes place entirely at the Cadogan Hotel on the afternoon of the conclusion of the first trial, when Wilde's friends, and indeed even the authorities, were eager for him to catch the boat train to Paris and thereby avoid arrest. For the second act, only two years later, Wilde is out of prison, back with his beloved "Bosie" Douglas and living in Neapolitan penury, while the few who still cared about them tried frantically and ultimately triumphantly to bribe them apart.

Hare has always been at his best writing about betrayal and unrequited love: "Racing Demon" and "Murmuring Judges" and "Absence of War" were, respectively, about the betrayal of the Church of England, the local judicial system and (all too topically still) the old Labour Party. His last two plays, "Skylight" and "Amy's View," and much earlier "Plenny" and "Secret Rapture," were about people who loved

not wisely but too well, and who ended up alone because of their romantic obsessions.

"The Judas Kiss" neatly combines all these themes and more. On one level it is about a love that spoke its name rather too loudly for late Victorian sensibilities. If Wilde had an abiding sin, it was not that of homosexuality but of self-publicizing hucksterism. Yet on many of its deeper levels the play is about guilt and arrogance and revenge, and, above all, about a man who simply could not make up his mind to catch a train or abandon forever the lover who had landed him in Reading Gaol.

While Richard Eyre's production is characteristically steady and subtle, he has made one decidedly odd casting decision, which is to have Tom Hollander play Bosie as a kind of mad dwarf, a young Dudley Moore forever snapping at the ankles of Liam Neeson's great, lumbering, constantly collapsed Oscar. No echo of the gay young man with the green carnation, no trace of the playwright or the poet, just a gigantic, fallen King Lear vaguely wondering how much worse it is all going to get. Neeson has not been on an English stage for 12 years, and on the first night his nervousness appeared to make him withdraw still further into the darkest corners that even this play affords, so that the battle for his reputation is all over before it has really begun.

In the line of Wildes that runs back in recent years through Stephen Fry, Simon Callow, Donald Sinden, Tom Baker and Peter Finch (their range alone suggesting that Wilde can indeed be all things to all men), Neeson is certainly the most physically com-

manding. But the truth is that Alfred Douglas, who survived in Brighton until well into World War II, and therefore still has several living witnesses, was also an elegant kind of bruiser from old boxing stock. The two were thus more evenly matched physically than they can ever be here, and there are some dangerous moments where we drift into an almost Laurel and Hardy relationship.

Hare asks all the right questions, but seldom supplies an answer that is much more than a shrug of confusion and despair. In truth, a lot of clues to the Wilde mystery lie in Robbie Ross, the first man to seduce him, but here again Hare gives us only a very thin portrait of an infinitely complex figure, played by Peter Capaldi rather better than the script deserves. Ross was the third man in the Graham Greene sense of spy and moralist villain, but Hare only sets him up like a ninetop to be knocked down repeatedly by Oscar and Bosie in their headlong flight, first toward and then away from each other.

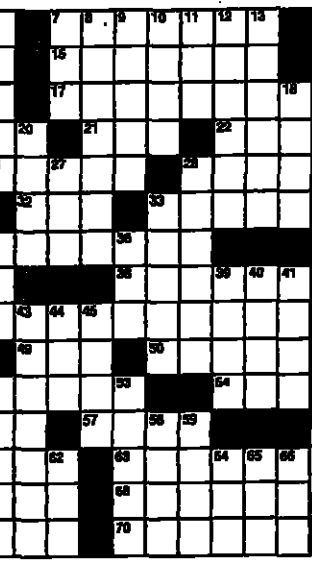
So you have to look in the far corners of the relationship for the real clues. Hare at one point suggests, justifiably on the evidence we have, that Bosie was really no more than Oscar's pimp, finding him the panthers with whom to feast but shunning any real homosexual relationship. This, if true, explains a great deal about Wilde's willingness to return to him even after two painful years in prison on his behalf. But it is all too typical of "The Judas Kiss" that the suggestion, once made, is allowed to drift back into the shadows of an infinitely fascinating but seldom touching and ultimately inconclusive study.

## CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Kind of shower
  - 7 Bedroom furniture
  - 14 Treat with gas
  - 15 "Gunsmoke" deputy
  - 16 Mythical warrior
  - 17 Consolidated clockmaker?
  - 18 Give off
  - 21 Teachers' org.
  - 22 Cleopatra's bitter
  - 23 Oldenburg
  - 24 Private reply, maybe
  - 25 Oktoberfest supply
  - 26 Valerie Harper TV role

- DOWN**
- 1 Cry to Bo-peep
  - 2 "Losing My Religion" rock group
  - 3 Brother of 34-Across
  - 4 Stun
  - 5 Focus for Ferrari
  - 6 Red Square figure
  - 7 Heat beater: Abbr.
  - 8 Like Cologne and environs
  - 9 Taxi feature
  - 10 Workplace regulator, for short
  - 11 "What was — think?"
  - 12 Stay
  - 13 Eliminated, in a way
  - 14 Like a little old lady in tennis shoes?
  - 15 Hit the road
  - 16 Ship on which Hercules sailed

- ACROSS**
- 24 "Moonstruck" star
  - 25 Cascades mount
  - 27 Induction grp.
  - 28 Former aerospace giant
  - 29 Adorned, in a way
  - 31 Light-footed
  - 32 Mrs. Flintstone
  - 33 Alfonso XIII's queen
  - 34 Court
  - 35 Brief O.K.: Abbr.
  - 40 They can be bruised
  - 41 Between 0% and 100%
  - 42 Jeer
  - 43 Cretan peak
  - 44 Remove
  - 45 Couturier
  - 46 Mother of Constantine the Great
  - 48 Get closer to, in a race
  - 52 Brazilian dance
  - 53 Passengers
  - 54 Conclusion of some games
  - 55 Poet — St. Vincent Millay
  - 57 Joe's W.W. II command
  - 62 Marshal under Napoleon



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**Solution to Puzzle of March 24**

SEWED MOSHE TIP  
ELATE OOHED ALI  
CHICKENFEED PIA  
TITHEE ELYSIAN  
SCRAPE UNDO  
BLOW RUM ROK  
KIMW OMEN RAMBO  
TILLOW BRICKROAD  
BUSHI ACQU NOLD  
BLI EER ODER  
PAWL NESSIE  
ANIMALS EXHUME  
LAT SISSYSPACEK  
BIT SNEER ELLIE  
ASH TENNIS LEANS

## An Orchestral Explosion in Paris

### Conductor Bids Farewell With Mahler and Strauss

By David Stevens  
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The recent orchestral scene has been extraordinarily dense in musical substance, with no less than three Mahler symphonies, a lavishly cast concert performance of Strauss' "Elektra," and the first French hearing of a major new work.

Two of the Mahler works,

Nos. 3 and 6, were brought by the Boston Symphony and Seiji Ozawa on their European tour, with a substantial bonus in the form of "The Shadows of Time," commissioned by the orchestra from Henri Dutilleul, the dean of French composers.

The Strauss opera and Mahler's Second Symphony were on the agenda for Semjon Bychkov's final Paris concert with the Orchestre de Paris, after nine seasons as the music director, a period that has seen a generational change in the orchestra's personnel.

The Dutilleul work, first performed last fall in Boston and New York, makes virtuoso use of the orchestra's different choirs in its five linked movements, beginning with a fanfare-like outburst in the brass and winding down at the end to a clockwork movement that recalls the beginning.

The central movement of the 25-minute work, subtitled

"Memory of Shadows," and the interlude that follows it fleetingly use three children's voices, the episode being dedicated to Anne Frank and "all the world's children, in all their innocence."

Mahler's gigantic symphonies do not share space easily, which may be why the huge apparatus of the Sixth Symphony, coming after the Dutilleul, remained earthbound. Far more successful was the Third, which was alone on the program of the second concert at the Theatre des Champs-Elysees. Florence Quivar was the superb mezzo soprano soloist, the Radio France choral forces did their duties well, and Ozawa stretched the passion of the final Adagio as far as it would go.

Bychkov and a starry cast, headed by Hildegard Behrens in the title role, shook the Salle Pleyel to its foundations with Strauss' one-act horror story.

The absence of stage representation was hardly missed as soprano and conductor built the musical-dramatic structure carefully to its climax.

Reinhold Runkel was a juicy malevolent Klytemnestra, Elizabeth Meyer-Topschke a radiant Chrysothemis, Franz Grundheber the solid Orest, and Klaus Koenig the ill-fated Aegisthus. The standing ovation that followed the performance was the real thing.

The temperature was lower but the musicianship was on a high level for Mahler's "Resurrection" symphony, with Lynne Dawson and Marjanna Lipovsek the excellent vocal soloists and Arthur Oldham's Orchestre de Paris chorus its customary solid presence.

Bychkov will take the orchestra on tour in May to Vienna, Prague, Dresden and Bregenz, after which he moves on to posts with the Cologne Radio Orchestra and the Dresden State Opera.



Seiji Ozawa conducting the Boston Symphony.

## PERSONAL STOCK PORTFOLIOS

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<http://www.iht.com>

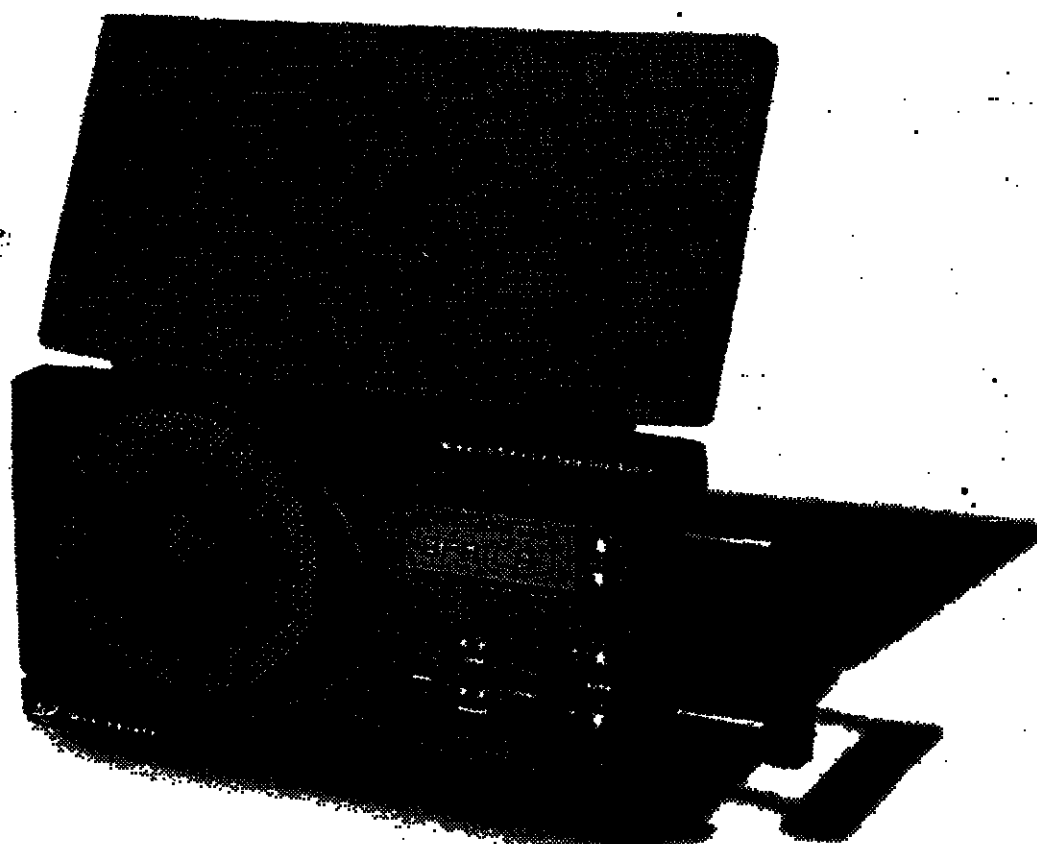
## Rupiah Surges

JAKARTA — The rupiah is surging as the International Monetary Fund endorses Indonesia's economic interest rates. The rupiah rose to its highest level in more than a month, with the dollar at 8,500 rupiah, its close there in New York, the dollar drop from 10,100 Monday. The IMF and Indonesia seem to be closing in on a deal to improve the rupiah's credit rating, said Jimmy Koh, senior economist at the central bank. The central bank raised interest rates an average of 12 percent.

## CURRENCY

Currency	Rate
U.S. dollar	8,500
British pound	1,200
Japanese yen	100
Swiss franc	1.20
German mark	1.20
French franc	1.20
Italian lira	1,200
Spanish peseta	160
Portuguese escudo	200
Belgian franc	1.20
Dutch guilder	1.20
Australian dollar	1.20
Canadian dollar	1.20
New Zealand dollar	1.20
South African rand	1.20
South Korean won	1,200
Thai baht	1.20
Singapore dollar	1.20
Malaysian ringgit	1.20
Indonesian rupiah	8,500





A prototype of the receivers that Noah Samara, right, plans to sell across the Third World and supply via satellite with international programming.



Dimitrios Kambouris/The Washington Post

## Radio to the World's Masses: A Well-Funded Dream

By Mike Mills  
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON—Seven years ago, several very wealthy and very private Middle Eastern investors started to put money into a company with an unusual business plan.

Noah Samara, a Washington lawyer, was proposing building a billion-dollar company that would sell a \$200 radio offering 75 channels of digital-quality music and news from around the globe, using three satellites.

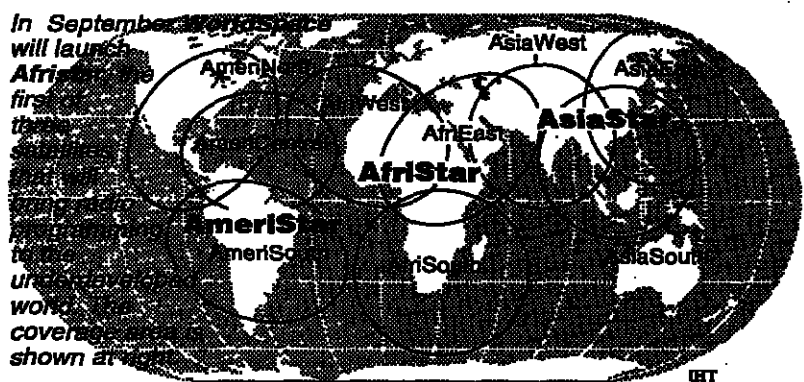
His market would be mostly developing or underdeveloped countries including India, China, much of Africa and parts of the Americas, and his revenue sources would be selling advertising, leasing channels to programmers and possibly selling premium information services by the month.

Despite the risky nature of the plan, his investors have funded him with \$950 million so far. More recently, four large Japanese equipment makers agreed to manufacture the radios by the millions.

Providers of programming, including the business-news executive Michael Bloomberg, the singer Stevie Wonder and dozens of radio stations around the world, are either planning to provide or considering providing content for the service.

In September, Mr. Samara, 42, the founder of WorldSpace Inc., plans to watch the launching of Afristar, the first of three WorldSpace satellites, which is to go into orbit 22,300 miles (35,700 kilometers) above central Africa. The next two, called AsiaStar and AmeriStar, are to be sent to orbit over Asia and the Americas next year.

Most of the 4.6 billion people in WorldSpace's future listening area cannot even pick up a nearby radio station. Mr. Samara estimates that 300 million of them will eagerly pay the \$200 for the radio — he predicts the cost will start to head much lower soon. But even if he is



In September, WorldSpace's Afristar will launch its first satellite, which will cover Africa, Asia and the Americas.

way off, Mr. Samara says, he needs only 10 million listeners to turn a profit.

"My concern is not whether I can make this a business," said Mr. Samara, who grew up in Ethiopia and Tanzania. "It's how to make it a phenomenon."

Analysts do not seem particularly concerned about WorldSpace's business prospects. Yes, its audience is hardly handpicked by Madison Avenue. Would-be listeners speak dozens of languages, come from widely diverse cultures and typically have low buying power and little access to goods. Even so, many who have studied Mr. Samara's business plan say the sheer scale of his intended audience makes up for those shortcomings.

"WorldSpace," said Thomas Watts, a satellite industry analyst for Merrill Lynch & Co., "serves a very large potential market for consumer products that cannot be reached by any other advertising medium."

Mr. Samara said 20 percent of his satellite capacity already was filled with programs, including Bloomberg News, which is leasing 23 channels. He said he also had met with Mr. Wonder, who owns radio stations and is interested in providing programming to an African audience. Analysts say other big names, such as British Broadcasting Corp. or Voice of America, are likely to join soon after WorldSpace gets its first satellite

up and its business running.

"I think that once he gets any kind of significant penetration," said Leslie Taylor, a Washington-based satellite industry consultant, "even as low as 20,000 to 30,000 users, he's going to start attracting a lot more interest among program suppliers."

Mr. Samara does not view the BBC or Voice of America as crucial anchor programs. Most of his initial potential customers can already get those on short-wave radio. What will excite a mass audience, he said, is being able to hear a radio station 200 miles away, or across the continent.

People in Cape Town would love to hear Senegal's hip Sud FM world-music station regularly, he said, rather than having it syndicated in South Africa only a couple of hours a day. Radio 1 FM, a music and information station in Gambia, also is highly desired by millions outside its range.

WorldSpace also is creating its own radio programming in unprecedented ways. Two pending projects include an all-Swahili station and an Africa-wide radio network, which Mr. Samara described as the first attempt at a continental communications service.

Mr. Samara was a Washington lawyer and worked as a trade negotiator for the International Telecommunications Un-

Wall Street to OPEC:  
We Don't Believe You

Stocks Surge and Oil Prices Slide on Doubts

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — The U.S. stock market rallied strongly Tuesday as crude-oil prices slipped on doubts that oil producers would honor their pledge to cut production to lift prices.

"People are rethinking whether they always do — say one thing and do another," Joseph Barthel, chief investment strategist at Fidelity Investments, said of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. "There is disbelief that OPEC has gotten its act together."

Oil prices surged Monday as several of the world's top producers pledged to cut output by as much as 1.6 million barrels a day to lift prices, which had fallen to 10-year lows. On Tuesday, Qatar said it also would cut its oil production, and Iran's oil minister said OPEC would hold an emergency meeting soon to find ways to lift prices.

But some of the producers, notably Venezuela, have a history of producing above their promised amounts, leaving traders wary of the output targets.

"People realized that there's prob-

ably not a genuine cartel and that these people cheat on each other and that this won't hold," said Louis Todd, head of equities trading at J.C. Bradford & Co.

Crude prices backtracked Tuesday, with oil for May delivery falling 59 cents a barrel to close at \$15.92 on the New York Mercantile Exchange. As oil prices slipped back, so did the threat of inflation that sent stocks down Monday.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which fell 90.18 points Monday, closed 88.19 points higher at 8,904.44, just short of a record. The Standard & Poor's 500 index closed 10.10 points higher at 1,105.65. Gaining issues outnumbered losing ones by a 3-to-2 ratio on the New York Stock Exchange.

Where stocks go now depends largely on the performance of corporate earnings, analysts said.

"It's kind of back to normal," said Ted Theodore, director of research at Avatar Associates. "We've still got to get through the first-quarter earnings. That looks like it's going to be a little

See MARKETS, Page 15

## Boeing Can't Catch Up

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEATTLE — Boeing Co. said Tuesday that it would miss its delivery goals for the first quarter and that it might have to take an additional charge against first-quarter earnings to account for continuing production problems.

Boeing said it would deliver 110 aircraft in the first quarter, five planes short of its goal of 115 planes.

Ron Woodard, president of Boeing's commercial jet division, said the company had experienced a surge in costly out-of-sequence work on the next-generation 737 in the past month associated with design changes required by U.S. and European regulators.

In October, Boeing disclosed that it would have to take \$2.6 billion in pre-tax charges against earnings by the end of 1998, the vast majority of which was taken against second-half

earnings of last year.

But the changes demanded by regulators, particularly a new exit door required by Europe's Joint Aviation Authorities, have left 28 of the twin-engine jets sitting outside Boeing's factories awaiting modifications.

"The financial impact of these ongoing production problems," Mr. Woodard said, "is being absorbed by Boeing."

Boeing, the world's largest aircraft maker, reassured investors last month that the assembly-line problems were on their way to being solved. The update shows that Boeing still does not know exactly how much it will cost to take care of the product shortages and behind-schedule work that emerged last fall when it was in the middle of doubling production in 18 months. Those problems contributed to its first annual loss in 50 years.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

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## Rupiah Surges as IMF Tensions Ease

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

JAKARTA — The rupiah surged Tuesday as the International Monetary Fund endorsed Indonesia's move to raise interest rates.

The rupiah rose to its highest level in more than a month, with the dollar falling as low as 8,500 rupiah in Asia from 9,250 rupiah, its close there Monday. In New York, the dollar dropped to 8,750 rupiah from 10,100 Monday.

"The IMF and Indonesia seem to be getting closer and improving their relationship," said Jimmy Koh of Independent Economic Analysis (Holdings) Pte. The central bank raised key interest rates an average of 12.7 per-

centage points Monday. The government also scrapped a proposed 5 percent tax on foreign-currency purchases after consultations with the IMF.

Finance Minister Fuad Bawazir said Tuesday that Indonesia was close to a comprehensive package of measures to lift the country out of its worst economic crisis in three decades. He said the government was completing the plan in talks with the IMF.

"Let us wait to conclude the talks," he said. "It's a very comprehensive package, very wide, touching on macro- and microeconomic issues."

A successful conclusion of the talks, which include a review of reforms that

Jakarta agreed to in exchange for \$40 billion in aid from the IMF, would bring much-needed revenue, as the Fund has withheld a \$3 billion tranche of the aid. A total of \$2.5 billion from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank also would be released.

Diplomatic and political analysts said relations between Jakarta and the Fund warmed appreciably in recent days after a period of strain. Indonesia appeared to be back on an IMF-approved track of reform and had won some concessions from the Fund, they said, including permission to continue subsidies on essential commodities.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

## CURRENCY &amp; INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates									
	\$	£	DM	FF	Yen	Sc	Sw	DK	Other
Australia	1.4999	0.6999	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500
Canada	0.7100	0.3100	0.6100	0.6100	0.6100	0.6100	0.6100	0.6100	0.6100
France	1.6667	0.7667	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Germany	0.6329	0.2829	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750
Italy	1.3636	0.6136	0.8182	0.8182	0.8182	0.8182	0.8182	0.8182	0.8182
Japan	0.0074	0.0034	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045
South Africa	1.4667	0.6667	0.9091	0.9091	0.9091	0.9091	0.9091	0.9091	0.9091
Sweden	0.1333	0.0600	0.0800	0.0800	0.0800	0.0800	0.0800	0.0800	0.0800
Switzerland	0.7500	0.3500	0.4667	0.4667	0.4667	0.4667	0.4667	0.4667	0.4667
Taiwan	0.0247	0.0113	0.0150	0.0150	0.0150	0.0150	0.0150	0.0150	0.0150
UK	0.6923	0.3177	0.4231	0.4231	0.4231	0.4231	0.4231	0.4231	0.4231
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7061	0.9375	0.9375	0.9375	0.9375	0.9375	0.9375	0.9375
Yen	136.36	62.50	83.33	83.33	83.33	83.33	83.33	83.33	83.33
Libid-Libor Rates									
	1-month	3-month	6-month	9-month	12-month	15-month	18-month	21-month	24-month
US Dollar	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
UK	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Germany	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
France	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Italy	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Japan	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
South Africa	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Sweden	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Switzerland	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Taiwan	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
UK	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Key Money Rates									
	1-month	3-month	6-month	9-month	12-month	15-month	18-month	21-month	24-month
US Dollar	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
UK	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Germany	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
France	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Italy	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Japan	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
South Africa	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Sweden	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Switzerland	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Taiwan	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
UK	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
Other Dollar Values									
	1-month	3-month	6-month	9-month	12-month	15-month	18-month	21-month	24-month
Australia	1.4999	0.6999	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500
Canada	0.7100	0.3100	0.6100	0.6100	0.6100	0.6100	0.6100	0.6100	0.6100
France	1.6667	0.7667	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Germany	0.6329	0.2829	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750
Italy	1.3636	0.6136	0.8182	0.8182	0.8182	0.8182	0.8182	0.8182	0.8182
Japan	0.0074	0.0034	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045
South Africa	1.4667	0.6667	0.9091	0.9091	0.9091	0.9091	0.9091	0.9091	0.9091
Sweden	0.1333	0.0600	0.0800	0.0800	0.0800	0.0800	0.0800	0.0800	0.0800
Switzerland	0.7500	0.3500	0.4667	0.4667	0.4667	0.4667	0.4667	0.4667	0.4667
Taiwan	0.0247	0.0113	0.0150	0.0150	0.0150	0.0150	0.0150	0.0150	0.0150
UK	0.6923	0.3177	0.4231	0.4231	0.4231	0.4231	0.4231	0.4231	0.4231
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7061	0.9375	0.9375	0.9375	0.9375	0.9375	0.9375	0.9375
Yen	136.36	62.50	83.33	83.33	83.33	83.33	83.33	83.33	83.33
Forward Rates									
	1-month	3-month	6-month	9-month	12-month	15-month	18-month	21-month	24-month
Australia	1.4999	0.6999	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500	1.2500
Canada	0.7100	0.3100	0.6100	0.6100	0.6100	0.6100	0.6100	0.6100	0.6100
France	1.6667	0.7667	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000	1.0000
Germany	0.6329	0.2829	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750	0.3750
Italy	1.3636	0.6136	0.8182	0.8182	0.8182	0.8182	0.8182	0.8182	0.8182
Japan	0.0074	0.0034	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045	0.0045
South Africa	1.4667	0.6667	0.9091	0.9091	0.9091	0.9091	0.9091	0.9091	0.9091
Sweden	0.1333	0.0600	0.0800	0.0800	0.0800	0.0800	0.0800	0.0800	0.0800
Switzerland	0.7500	0.3500	0.4667	0.4667	0.4667	0.4667	0.4667	0.4667	0.4667
Taiwan	0.0247	0.0113	0.0150	0.0150	0.0150	0.0150	0.0150	0.0150	0.0150
UK	0.6923	0.3177	0.4231	0.4231	0.4231	0.4231	0.4231	0.4231	0.4231
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7061	0.9375	0.9375	0.9375	0.9375	0.9375	0.9375	0.9375
Yen	136.36	62.50	83.33	83.33	83.33	83.33	83.33	83.33	83.33







## INTERNATIONAL

## A Fairy-Tale Publisher Realizes Its U.S. Dreams

### Purchase Expands Bertelsmann's Reach

By Edmund L. Andrews  
New York Times Service

FRANKFURT — Bertelsmann AG has come a long way from selling books of Christian music and stories by the Brothers Grimm.

If it carries out the acquisition of Random House announced Monday, Bertelsmann would be the biggest commercial book publisher in the United States and in the world. But that would still account for less than half of an empire that includes music, magazines, broadcasting, digital television and on-line computer services.

That's not bad for a company whose first best-seller was "Theomeli," a book of Christian songs published in 1833, and whose first celebrity authors were the Brothers Grimm in the mid-19th century. Even now, with \$12 billion in sales and a global reach, the privately held company remains under the control of a descendant of Carl Bertelsmann.

The deal further brightens the power of Bertelsmann, which ranks as the world's third-largest media conglomerate, behind Disney Co. and Time Warner Inc., with businesses in books, magazines, broadcasting, digital television and on-line services.

In the United States, it already owns the RCA, Arista and Windham Hill record labels and such magazines as McCall's, and Family Circle. It recently announced plans to create an on-line book-selling venture that would challenge the Internet leaders Amazon.com Inc. and Barnes & Noble Inc.

For all its reach, though, Bertelsmann remains closer to its paper-and-ink origins than most other globe-spanning media conglomerates, whether it is Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., which owns HarperCollins; Sumner Redstone's Viacom Inc., the parent of Simon & Schuster, or Time-Warner, which owns Warner Books and Little, Brown.

Bertelsmann has moved aggressively into digital television and formed a major alliance with America Online Inc., but its biggest business is still books.

"There is a twofold aspect to our strategy," its chief executive, Mark Woessner, said from the company's headquarters in Guetersloh. "First, we have to enlarge our great book business, which is by far our largest business. Our next strategic interest is to further expand our American situation."

Bertelsmann owns three of Germany's nationwide commercial television networks and stakes in scores of other broadcasting properties across Europe.

In the United States, Bertelsmann Books owns Bantam Doubleday Dell, which it plans to operate separately from Random House until the purchase is approved by antitrust regulators. Eventually, the two American publishing units are expected to operate under a single umbrella, supervised by Peter Olson, a Bertelsmann publishing executive who is to become chief executive of Random House.

Industry executives say Bertelsmann has discussed buying HarperCollins from News Corp. But the move to acquire Random House, the largest American publisher of trade books for ordinary book buyers, has electrified the industry on both sides of the Atlantic.

No one seemed surprised that Bertelsmann had bought a second New York publisher; Mr. Woessner and others had openly discussed their interest in such an acquisition. But most competitors had assumed it would make a deal with Mr. Murdoch, who has shown less interest in books than in his other media interests and recently stirred concern over conflicts of interest when HarperCollins canceled a critical book on China written by Chris Patten, the last British governor of Hong Kong. Mr. Murdoch is seeking to expand his satellite-television network into China.



Mr. Middelhoff, seated, and Mr. Olson, who jointly lassoed Random House.

The man behind the surprise move is Thomas Middelhoff, the architect of Bertelsmann's expansion into multimedia services. Mr. Woessner announced last July that Mr. Middelhoff would succeed him as chairman of the Bertelsmann global empire this October.

Mr. Middelhoff is a confident strategist and a tough negotiator. When Bertelsmann was locked in a brutal brawl over digital television with the Munich-based Kirch Group, which owns German rights to a vast library of movies and television programming, Bertelsmann refused to reach an agreement until it preserved the control it wanted.

Over the past few years, Bertelsmann has appeared to vacillate about plunging into multimedia products. Though it teamed up with Kirch Group and Canal Plus SA of France to launch Germany's first pay-television service, Premier, Bertelsmann executives often spoke disparagingly about more advanced services such as movies on demand.

Bertelsmann and Kirch finally worked out an agreement last year to roll out advanced services, in conjunc-

tion with Deutsche Telekom AG. But European competition regulators have sharply criticized those plans, and the alliance's prospects remain unclear.

Meanwhile, Bertelsmann has plunged ahead in its alliance with America Online. Less than three years after the debut of America Online's Germany service, the company has more than 1 million customers. Bertelsmann also helped finance America Online's takeover of CompuServe Corp.'s customers, which means that the joint venture now serves an additional 800,000 users.

Through all the jockeying in electronic media, both Mr. Woessner and Mr. Middelhoff have said that book publishing remains central to Bertelsmann's future. They also remained deeply interested in expanding their American presence, hoping to capitalize on the world's largest media market.

Shortly after Mr. Middelhoff was anointed as the heir-apparent to Mr. Woessner, he began spending more time in New York. Mr. Woessner said he wanted his successor to increase his familiarity with the American publishing industry, but Mr. Middelhoff also came with a mandate to look for possible acquisitions. The deal announced Monday was negotiated primarily by Mr. Middelhoff and Mr. Olson, an American who heads Bertelsmann Book Group North America.

At the moment, the United States accounts for about one-quarter of Bertelsmann's worldwide sales, and Mr. Middelhoff has said that he would like to increase that share to at least 40 percent. If Bertelsmann succeeds in acquiring Random House, which is now owned by Advanced Publications Inc., the United States would account for one-third of sales.

## Building Random House

### Begun in 1923, It Rose to Literary Heights

By Dinitia Smith  
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — In 1923, Bennett Cerf and Donald Klopfer, the founders of Random House, set up shop as the Modern Library in a tiny ninth-floor office at 73 W. 45th St., with their desks facing each other and sharing a secretary.

It was an era when "hand-selling" was not just a quaint term to describe the practice of a salesman personally recommending a book to a customer. "Hand-selling" for Mr. Cerf and Mr. Klopfer meant carrying books to stores themselves, writing their own editorial and advertising copy, all out of a passionate love of books, writing and authors.

Their approach was a success, and they expanded their business, founding Random House in 1927. From that grew the immense enterprise that is now being acquired by Bertelsmann AG.

Their first book was an edition of Voltaire's "Candide," illustrated by Rockwell Kent.

As much as anything, it was Mr. Cerf's large personality that propelled Random House forward. One of his first major authors was Eugene O'Neill. To get him, he bypassed Mr. O'Neill's agent, and flew to Sea Island, Georgia, where he charmed the playwright into signing with Random House. Mr. O'Neill "was the most beautiful man I ever met," Mr. Cerf wrote in his memoir, "At Random."

Later, Mr. Cerf traveled to Paris to meet James Joyce, whom he found with his arm in a sling and his foot bandaged: he had been hit by a car. In 1934, Random House successfully defeated a government ban on publishing the full text of "Ulysses." Random House had laid the groundwork for other houses to publish works as they saw fit, and Mr. Cerf became a spokesman for the industry.

Mr. Cerf was publisher, friend and nursemaid to his writers, once carrying a drunken William Faulkner to the hospital after the author had burned himself on a radiator.

The publisher worked on hunches and instinct, signing up the young Armenian-American writer William Saroyan on a tip without meeting him or reading his work. He spotted a short story by Truman Capote in Mademoiselle, and put Mr. Capote under contract for the book that became "Other Voices, Other Rooms."

And though Mr. Cerf was shrewd about profits, he was willing to take a chance with an author. When he published Gertrude Stein's "The Geographical History of America or the Relations of Human Nature to the Human Mind," he wrote on the jacket copy: "I must admit frankly that I do not know what Miss Stein is talking about. I

do not even understand the title." Mr. Cerf's kind of publishing would be impossible in today's world of formal editorial meetings and computerized sales records that dog authors as they move from publisher to publisher.

"It was very casual," said Jason Epstein, the editor of Norman Mailer and E.L. Doctorow. "Everyone understood it was not a business like selling steel or shoes. It was a sport, a game for gentlemen who could support themselves in other ways."

Eventually the company moved to a wing of the old Villard Mansion at Madison Avenue and 51st Street, and in 1960 Mr. Cerf bought the firm of his idol, Alfred Knopf, the publisher of Thomas Mann and T.S. Eliot.

Mr. Knopf had founded his company

As much as anything, it was Bennett Cerf's large personality that propelled Random House forward.

in 1915, believing that American tastes were maturing, and that Americans were ready to read the works of European authors.

Mr. Knopf, whom The New Yorker described as wearing an expression perpetually "intolerant and long-suffering," could not have been more unlike the ebullient Mr. Cerf. The writer John Hershey called Mr. Knopf "the sworn enemy of hogwash, bunk, gas, rubbish and a scourge of hypocrites and shoddy-dynes."

Mr. Knopf was said to view every book he published as a work of art. At one point, he had more Nobel Prize-winning authors than any other house in America, although a significant part of its revenues came from the mystic Khalil Gibran's book, "The Prophet."

"I think that best-sellers should be abolished by law," Mr. Knopf said. "They're just another example of running with the crowd."

Publishers no longer utter such words, and today, Knopf publishes its share of mass-market authors, too. Anne Rice and Michael Crichton among them. Knopf's parent company, Random House, depends on a quaint tale of a murder and drag queen set in Savannah, Georgia, John Berendt's "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," to help keep the ship afloat.

Still, Mr. Epstein said: "The essential process of editing and publishing has not changed and never will. There are no short cuts to it and no way of doing it differently."

It is just that publishing is no longer a gentleman's game.

## Malaysia Cuts Growth Outlook

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia on Tuesday lowered its estimate for economic growth and raised its inflation forecast for 1998.

Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim said the economy was likely to expand 2 percent to 3 percent this year, less than the 4 to 5 percent growth he forecast just three months ago. That would be the "slowest rate of growth in more than a decade."

Mr. Anwar also said he expected inflation to accelerate, to a rate of 7 to 8 percent in 1998 from 2.7 percent last year, as the slide of the ringgit, Malaysia's currency, against the U.S. dollar made imports more expensive.

The revised forecasts, made in a speech to Parliament, are part of an offensive to woo investors back to Malaysia's stock market.

But stocks slid Tuesday in Kuala Lumpur, with the benchmark composite index falling 0.53 percent, to 731.89

points. Mr. Anwar also said that the foreign ownership ceiling of 30 percent in the banking sector would stay in place, as would caps on foreigners' equity in industries such as telecommunications, insurance and stockbroking.

Analysts voiced disappointment over the decision to leave the ceiling at 30 percent.

"What's the harm in raising that to 49 percent?" asked Steve Clayton, managing director of Caspian Research Malaysia Bhd.

"What is going to be needed in Malaysia is foreign capital, and that's a good way to do it."

Mr. Anwar said Malaysia had already eased the ownership limits in financial services, insurance and the securities industry.

The current-account deficit — which includes services as well as merchandise — is expected to be 1 percent of gross national product in 1998, he said.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)



Anwar Ibrahim presenting the revised forecast on Tuesday.

## USX Seeks Partner to Enter Asia's Steel Market

Bloomberg News

SEOUL — USX Corp. is seeking a partner for a joint bid to take over an insolvent South Korean steel producer, a move that would give it access to Asian markets from which it has been largely absent.

Pohang Iron & Steel Co., which already has an American joint venture with USX, received a letter from the Pittsburgh-based steel and energy company this month suggesting a joint acquisition of Hanbo Steel Co., Soha Young Ho, a POSCO executive, said Tuesday.

"This is a cheaper way of getting into Korea and other Asian neighbors," said Bill Sohn, an analyst at Clarion Securities Co. "USX has little exposure to the lucrative Asian markets. Global positioning of its business must be a key reason behind the proposal."

If the deal went through, it would be the latest in a raft of foreign acquisitions of South Korean companies that were made cheap by the collapse of the won last year. Hanbo's shares are worth about \$18 million on the stock market, compared with \$34 million five months ago.

A takeover also would provide a lifeline to Hanbo, which has an unfinished \$7 billion steel plant on its hands, after more than a year in the bankruptcy courts, and it would give USX access to the world's sixth-biggest steel market.

South Korea consumed more than 5 percent of the world's steel last year to feed its shipyards, which rank second in output to Japan's, and its auto industry, the world's fifth-largest.

POSCO, the world's

second-biggest steel producer and a company under de facto government control, has so far resisted government overtures to take over Hanbo. The endangered company's unfinished mill would require it to increase its investment just as the slowing South Korean economy depresses demand for steel.

"We have yet to begin negotiations with USX, but I don't think Hanbo Steel will be a profitable business," Mr. Sohn of POSCO said.

USX and POSCO have a joint venture in Pittsburgh that produces cold-rolled coil for the U.S. market. Analysts say USX may have to join forces with other Asian companies that have been looking at South Korean steelmakers.

"Some Taiwanese companies, too, have shown interest

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## Daihatsu Pulls Out of Thailand, Ending Production and Sales

Bloomberg News

TOKYO — Daihatsu Motor Co. has stopped production in Thailand, the company said Tuesday, and will close its sales outlets there at the end of the month, becoming the first Japanese automaker to pull out of the economically troubled Southeast Asian country.

Daihatsu, the second-largest Japanese producer of minivans — vehicles with engine sizes of 660 cubic centimeters or less — will shut down the sales affiliate Daihatsu-Phanakhon Motor Co. at the end of this month, Ken Koike, a company spokesman, said. It ended a production deal with Bangkok-based Bangchan General Assembly Co. last month.

"We'll look at how things go," Mr. Koike said, before deciding whether to resume production and sales in Thailand. Daihatsu said it would set up a subsidiary next month with 20 employees to provide after-sales service and auto parts. The Toyota Motor Corp. affiliate, which makes the Mira \$500e pickup truck in Thailand, sold just 160 vehicles in the country in 1997, compared with a peak of 4,000 in 1995, Mr. Koike said. The plant began plunging last July and has lost almost a third of its value against the yen over the past year, raising prices for imported cars and those produced mostly with imported parts.

The weak baht also hurts earnings of Japanese companies in Thailand when they repatriate their profits and convert them to yen.

But Mr. Koike said the Thai pullout would not have a "significant impact on Daihatsu's earnings."

How will liberalization of telecoms trade affect the callback segment of the industry?

Don't miss the International Herald Tribune Sponsored Section on

**TRADE IN  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS**  
On May 4, 1998



Herald Tribune

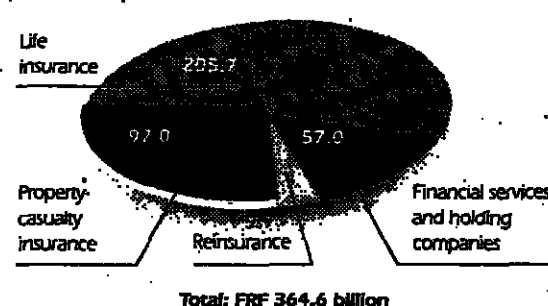
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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

## Net earnings: FRF 7.9 billion

■ Revenue: consolidated revenue rose 12.3%, to FRF 364.4 billion. On a comparable basis (constant currency, accounting method and structural basis), revenue growth reached 8.7%. Growth was particularly solid in life insurance and financial services. In property-casualty and reinsurance, revenue was stable.

Breakdown of Consolidated Revenue by Business (in billions of FRF)



■ Consolidated Net Income: 1997 net income, Group share totaled FRF 7.92 billion, confirming the improved profitability of the insurance and asset management businesses communicated for the first half of the year. Net earnings per share reached FRF 24.34, an increase of 19.5%. The increase in fully diluted earnings per share, i.e. taking into account convertible bonds redeemable in stock and subscription options, climbed 24.7% versus the previous year, to FRF 22.84. This exceeds the Group's target of an average of 15% a year for the 1996-2000 period.

Consolidated Net Income, Group Share by Line of Business (in millions of FRF)

	31/12/1997 AXA IAP	31/12/1996 AXA SA (1)
Life Insurance	3,928	1,612
Property-casualty insurance	2,359	525
Reinsurance	813	579
Financial services	2,415	950
Holding companies	(1,595)	143
Total	7,920	3,809

(1) AXA SA's net income for 1996 is given for information purposes only

■ Life Insurance operations contributed FRF 3,928 billion to net income, Group share, thanks to business growth and satisfactory investment results. Europe contributed FRF 3,218 billion of the total, including FRF 1,314 billion for the UK, FRF 812 million for France, and 616 million for Belgium. The contribution from US life insurance operations climbed to FRF 379 million, from FRF 143 million the prior year. National Mutual Asia contributed FRF 269 million.

■ Property-casualty Insurance operations contributed FRF 2,359 billion to consolidated net income. Group share, maintaining its underwriting results and cost-control efforts under adverse market conditions. In addition, investment results were good in most countries where the Group operates. Europe contributed FRF 2,662 billion to this total, including FRF 1,211 billion for France and FRF 650 million and FRF 516 million for Belgium and Germany respectively. Some activities made a negative contribution to consolidated net income, notably direct insurance, due to high development costs, and Asian businesses, where equity portfolio values were reduced to reflect the general decline in the region's markets.

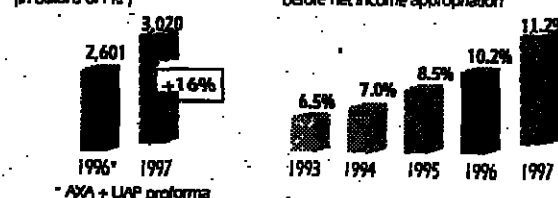
■ The increased contribution from reinsurance operations was significant, reaching FRF 813 million, buoyed by satisfactory investment results and the absence of any major claims.

■ The financial services contribution to consolidated net income, Group share totaled FRF 2,415 billion. The American financial services contribution increased by 90%, to FRF 1,792 billion, in an extremely bullish market context.

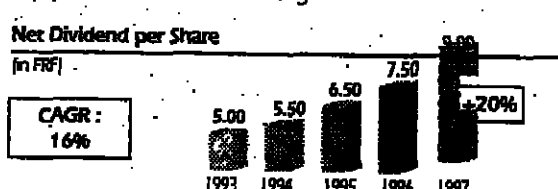
The financial services contribution from other countries was FRF 673 million, including FRF 187 million from asset management, FRF 145 million from real estate and FRF 341 million from other financial services.

The Group attained 11.2% return on equity in 1997, reaching the objective it had set for 1998 one year ahead of schedule. This puts it well on track for its medium-term target of 15%.

Assets Under Management Return on Average Equity (in billions of FRF) before net income appropriation



■ Dividend: At the Ordinary and Extraordinary Meeting scheduled for 6 May 1998 at the Palais des Congrès in Paris, the dividend amount and payout date will be submitted to shareholders for approval. A dividend of FRF 9 will be proposed, versus FRF 7.50 for 1996, an increase of 20%. The coupon detachment date is 11 May 1998. Including the tax credit, the total dividend amount is FRF 13.50. AXA's objective is to maintain its payout ratio at 35-40% of earnings.



For additional information: the full press release and a detailed presentation of results are available on the Internet (<http://www.axa.com>); or by contacting the Investor and Analyst Relations Department (Pascal Thébaud, Pierre Granier) at 33.1.40.75.48.42 or the AXA Individual Shareholders Department (François Pavée) at 33.1.40.75.46.05.









## EUROPE

## EU Raises the Heat On Credit Lyonnais

**BRUSSELS** — The European Union's top antitrust official threatened Tuesday to apply "much stricter conditions" to the French bailout of state-owned Credit Lyonnais SA, demanding that France take action by next week.

The EU's competition commissioner, Karel Van Miert, said an accord on a new plan had been delayed by disagreements over which assets the bank needed to sell and the French government's refusal to accelerate the sale of the bank to private investors. The plan follows one approved by the EU in 1995 that had to be revised as the French state continued to pour money into the bank.

"We've been trying to sort things out, but until now without success," Mr. Van Miert said. "The progress is not satisfactory."

The battle between Mr. Van Miert and the French authorities involves the biggest EU antitrust case in history. The French government, which aimed to become Europe's largest bank, is expected to cost the French state as much as 190 billion francs (\$31 billion), according to figures previously mentioned by Mr. Van Miert. The cost has escalated from 45 billion francs in 1995, to represent roughly 10,000 francs per French taxpayer.

Tension between Brussels and Paris has been rising as France resists Mr. Van Miert's calls for a quick sale of Credit Lyonnais to private investors as well as the sale of most of its European assets outside France.

France is dragging its feet, analysts said, because the longer it waits to sell Credit Lyonnais, the more money it is likely to get from the sale, as the bank's recovery adds to its value.

Jean Peyrelevade, the bank's chairman and chief executive, said over the weekend that the bank was probably worth 40 billion francs today and could be worth even more next year.

Last Thursday, Credit Lyonnais posted a profit of 1.2 billion francs for 1997, five times the amount it earned in 1996, when it posted a profit of 202 million francs.

After the bank's announcement of its results, however, Mr. Van Miert took the unusual step of questioning publicly the validity. In a surprise statement, he said the results assumed state aid of 3 billion francs that the EU had not cleared yet, and were therefore "illegal."

The bank could find itself in an awkward position if the EU does not approve the new 3 billion franc aid by the time the bank's shareholders hold their annual meeting in June, to approve the bank's 1997 results.

## Europe Is Urged To Form Alliances In Aerospace

**PARIS** — The big European aerospace companies should form specialized alliances as a way of competing globally, the French defense minister said in an interview published Tuesday.

Alexis Richard, speaking in an interview with a financial daily, Les Echos, also said French companies should pool their military businesses along sector lines.

France's state-owned Aerospace, British Aerospace PLC and Daimler-Benz Aerospace AG of Germany are due to present a blueprint for reshaping military and commercial aerospace by the end of the month to confront competition from the U.S. firms Boeing Co. and Lockheed Martin Corp.

Mr. Richard urged Dassault Aviation of France and British Aerospace work together on combat aircraft. The two companies with the Mirage 2000 and the Tornado and have the new Rafale and Eurofighter jets vying for export sales.

"Some points are essential, particularly that the future European entity combine all the European activities in combat aircraft," Mr. Richard said.

## French Output Figures Point to Faster Growth

**By Susannah Patton**  
Special to the Herald Tribune

**PARIS** — France's economy, recovering after a period of slow growth, showed signs Tuesday that it would not lose steam soon.

French industrial output surged in January and housing starts rose at their fastest pace in three years, reports showed, and economists said the fresh economic data provided more evidence the economy would expand more this year than last.

The figures, on the heels of recent economic data showing a drop in unemployment, rising consumer spending and growing confidence among French households, are the latest sign that France's economy is set to grow strongly this year after two years of sluggish performance.

The French government is counting on growth of 3 percent this year, up from 2.4 percent in 1997.

Production of such manufactured goods as cars, appliances and the parts to make them rose 8.8 percent in the three months ended in January from the comparable period a year earlier, the national statistics office Insee said.

Meanwhile, the Housing Ministry reported that new-home construction rose 2.7 percent in February and 3.4 percent in the three months to the end of February.

Economists said the figures reflected an increase in domestic demand, which has joined with exports to drive growth in France.

"The key to the strong-growth scenario is that domestic demand is picking up," said David Nandé, an economist at J.P. Morgan in Paris.

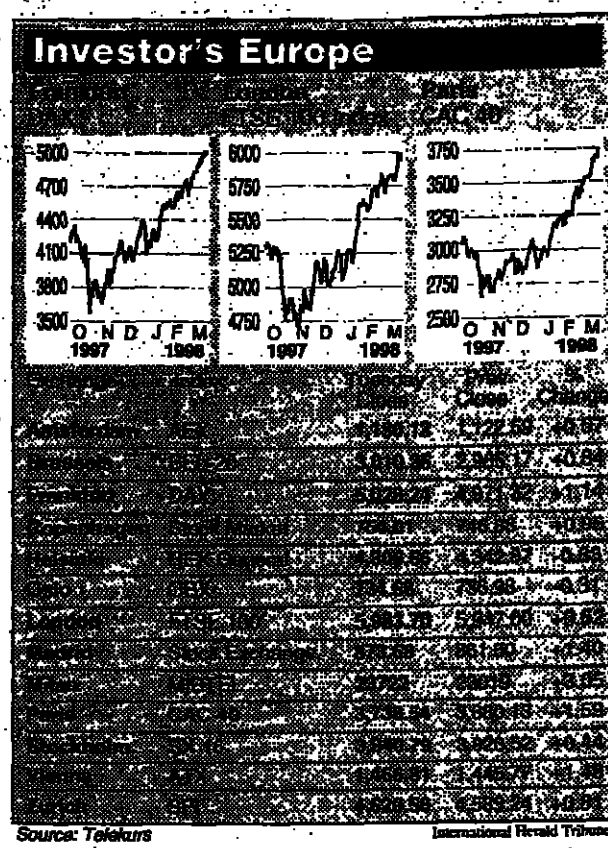
"The labor market is improving in France, and that is helping to boost consumption."

France's unemployment rate fell to 12.1 percent in January from a postwar high of 12.6 percent last June. That helped raise consumer spending by an annual 5.5 percent in January, compared with 0.2 percent for all of 1997.

The manufacturing output figures showed a slight 1.1 percent drop from December. Economists characterized the dip as a "pause," however, rather than a reversal of a positive trend.

Still, some economists warned that the Asian financial crisis and France's plans to legislate a 35-hour workweek could slow economic growth. "Those two factors cloud the picture for forecasting," said Patrick Mange, an economist at Deutsche Bank who is expecting 1998 growth of 2.7 percent.

Eric Chaney, economist at Morgan Stanley, added: "Growth is due to slow down a bit in France and other European countries as the effects of the Asian crisis are felt. But I'm not worried because prospects for consumer spending are very good."



## Very briefly:

- Western Germany's annual inflation rate hit a 10-year low of 1 percent this month amid falling prices for energy, vacations and telephone calls. Consumer prices fell 0.2 percent this month, strengthening expectations that interest rates will not rise.
- Germany will appoint the Bundesbank's chief economist, Oskar Issing, to the six-member executive board of the future European Central Bank, where he will join members from Finland, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and France in overseeing the Jan. 1 start of the common currency, the euro.
- AO Yukos Oil Co. plans a strategic alliance with Schlumberger Ltd. of New York, an oil-field services company; the Russian oil company concluded a partnership deal Monday with Elf Aquitaine SA of France.
- Russia went ahead with its delayed issue of Deutsche mark-denominated Eurobonds and raised the amount to 1.25 billion Deutsche marks (\$684.5 million) from 1 billion amid strong demand for the paper.
- SEAT SA, Volkswagen AG's Spanish carmaking unit, said its profit more than doubled in 1997, helped by sales of its SEAT brand cars, particularly its Ibiza model. SEAT earned 11.1 billion pesetas (\$71.6 million) in 1997, up from 5.5 billion pesetas in 1996, when it ended a five-year string of losses.
- Savoy Hotel PLC's net income last year was £17.7 million (\$29.7 million), reversing a net loss a year earlier of £26.8 million, amid strong demand for rooms at its four London luxury hotels.
- Presentis AG, a provider of dialysis products and services, said fourth-quarter profit rose 20 percent, to 55 million DM, as it bought health centers in Europe and increased its sales in Latin America and Asia.
- The Swiss National Bank is accepting as much as 2 billion Swiss francs (\$1.3 billion) in bids for two sets of government bonds; it also announced the auction of Switzerland's first-ever 30-year bond.



Audi's chairman, Franz-Josef Paefgen, outlining the automaker's glowing 1997 profit report and 1998 forecast Tuesday.

## Audi Sees Improvement on Record Profit

**Frankfurt** — Audi AG reported its best-ever annual results Tuesday and said further increases in sales and profit were possible in 1998. Net profit rose 22 percent last year, to 367 million Deutsche marks (\$200.5 million).

Chairman Franz-Josef Paefgen said the luxury car division of Volkswagen AG had raced through two "magic" boundaries in 1997, with sales exceeding 20 billion DM and deliveries of more than 500,000 vehicles. At 22.4 billion DM, sales were up 19 percent, and the company delivered 546,436 vehicles, an 11 percent increase over 1996.

"In 1998," he said, "we expect solid growth with a sales volume above the previous year's level."

Audi said group sales would reach 6.5 billion DM in the first three months of this year, 29 percent more than in the like period in 1997.

But Mr. Paefgen said profit growth might not match the sales growth because Audi was running out of production capacity.

Audi faces production bottlenecks at its main plants in Ingolstadt and Neckarsulm in southern Germany as it struggles to cope with demand for its top-end A6 and A8 models, which are already sold out for 1998.

The automaker said it was considering ways to increase capacity, including expanding existing plants. A Brazilian plant is to open in early 1999, and the company said it might build a plant in or outside Germany but added that no concrete plans existed yet.

(Reuters, AP, Bloomberg)

## The Trib Index

World Index	Level	Change	% Change	Year to Date % Change
World Index	194.89	+2.67	+1.36	+13.24
Regional Indices				
Asia/Pacific	96.60	-0.86	-0.88	+0.55
Europe	228.21	+1.51	+0.66	+18.74
N. America	247.21	+1.18	+0.48	+14.45
S. America	159.01	-0.81	-0.51	+4.15
Industrial Indices				
Capital goods	233.73	+1.42	+0.61	+13.15
Consumer goods	237.87	+1.07	+0.45	+13.42
Energy	214.87	-2.32	-1.07	+10.11
Finance	143.17	+0.43	+0.30	+16.44
Miscellaneous	176.47	-1.26	-0.73	+13.74
Raw Materials	198.86	+2.22	+1.16	+15.92
Services	201.54	+2.10	+1.05	+15.82
Utilities	183.15	-0.92	-0.50	+9.78

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Tuesday, March 24 Prices in local currencies				High Low Close Prev.				High Low Close Prev.				High Low Close Prev.				High Low Close Prev.			
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March 24, 1998

For information on how to list your fund, fax Katy Hourli at (33-1) 41 43 92 12 or E-mail: [funds@iht.com](mailto:funds@iht.com)

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 If you prefer, you can also contact us for your funds by E-mail: [subscribe@e-funds@lnt.com](mailto:subscribe@e-funds@lnt.com)

**World Bank**

The World Bank has warned that the Asian financial crisis could lead to a global recession. The bank's president, James D. Wolfensohn, said that the crisis could lead to a global recession if it is not handled properly. He said that the crisis could lead to a global recession if it is not handled properly. He said that the crisis could lead to a global recession if it is not handled properly.

**FT Sees Slower**

The Financial Times has predicted a slower growth rate for the Asian economies in 1998. The FT said that the Asian economies are likely to experience a slower growth rate in 1998 due to the financial crisis. The FT said that the Asian economies are likely to experience a slower growth rate in 1998 due to the financial crisis.

**Crises for Japan**

Japan is facing a series of crises, including a recession and a decline in its stock market. The Japanese government is struggling to deal with the crisis. The Japanese government is struggling to deal with the crisis. The Japanese government is struggling to deal with the crisis.

**Stechi Sets Chip Ver**

Stechi has set a target for the chip industry. The target is to increase the production of chips by 10% in 1998. The target is to increase the production of chips by 10% in 1998. The target is to increase the production of chips by 10% in 1998.

**briefly:**

- Pacific Airways Ltd., Hong Kong, has announced a plan to increase its fleet by 10% in 1998.
- The Japanese government has announced a plan to increase its spending on infrastructure by 10% in 1998.
- The Chinese government has announced a plan to increase its spending on infrastructure by 10% in 1998.
- The Indian government has announced a plan to increase its spending on infrastructure by 10% in 1998.
- The South Korean government has announced a plan to increase its spending on infrastructure by 10% in 1998.

The data in the list above is the raw supply by the fund groups to Microcap SA. It is copied and reformatted into the list before being transmitted to the IIT. Microcap and the IIT do not warrant the quality or accuracy of the list, the date of the performance of sides of the Fund Groups and will not be liable for the list, the data of Fund Group to any extent. The list is not and shall not be deemed to be an offer by the IIT or Microcap to sell securities or investments of any kind. Investments can fall as well as rise. Past performance does not guarantee future success. It is advisable to seek advice from a qualified independent advisor before investing.



## ASIA/PACIFIC

## World Bank Accepts a Share of Blame for Asia Crisis

By Philip Segal  
International Herald Tribune

HONG KONG — The World Bank blamed local governments, foreign investors and international institutions such as itself Tuesday for either causing or failing to anticipate Asia's financial crisis, and it warned that investments in and loans to the world's emerging economies were likely to drop this year.

"Countries that rely on these flows for new financing will likely face considerable difficulties in the near term," the World Bank said, predicting economic growth of 3.5 percent in Malaysia and 3 percent in the Philippines this year but no growth or a contraction in Indonesia, Thailand and South Korea.

The bank, in a report on Asia's crisis, chastised governments in emerging economies for having inadequately regulated financial systems. It also took foreign bankers and investors to task for pouring money into emerging markets that often provided poor returns.

The bank also had stern words for itself, saying international institutions had not been on the lookout for the right signals and had been taken by surprise when the crisis hit last year.

"There seems to have been sufficient publicly available data in Thailand to allow observers to foresee problems at least a year before the devaluation of the baht," the World Bank said. "Yet few appreciated the depth of the structural weaknesses in East Asian economies. Rating agencies and international institutions failed to adequately assess the region's economic vulnerabilities."

In its annual report titled Global Development Finance 1998 — formerly known as the World Debt Tables — the bank predicted a slowdown in foreign money flows to the developing world this year. It highlighted a new emphasis, already being adopted by bankers and international agencies, that accents the quality — not the quantity — of investment in emerging markets.

It said that in this decade in emerging economies, "distorted incentives, lax regulatory standards, poorly managed financial liberalization and inadequate disclosure and supervision have encouraged excessive risk-taking," and it placed much of the blame for the crisis on imprudent action by more developed countries. "Foreign lenders and investors,"

it said, "were not restrained by inadequate financial statements, high short-term debt or the unbudgeted foreign-exchange exposure present in the financing structure of East Asian banks and firms."

In a sign of how eager richer countries were to invest in the developing world before last year's financial crisis, net inflows of private long-term money still registered an increase of 3.6 percent last

countries might help stabilize these economies.

The debate has drawn calls from the financier George Soros, Joseph Stiglitz, the World Bank's chief economist, and others for more intervention in international capital markets. The idea is to help slow the flow of money from rich countries to developing nations whose financial systems cannot always productively handle such masses of funds.

Those arguing this case have been staunchly opposed by the U.S. deputy Treasury secretary, Lawrence Summers,

who likened the ability of businesses to raise money across borders to the rise of jet travel. "Governments," he wrote recently, "can respond to the invention of the jet aircraft by lengthening the runway or by banning jet landings. It is obvious which is better."

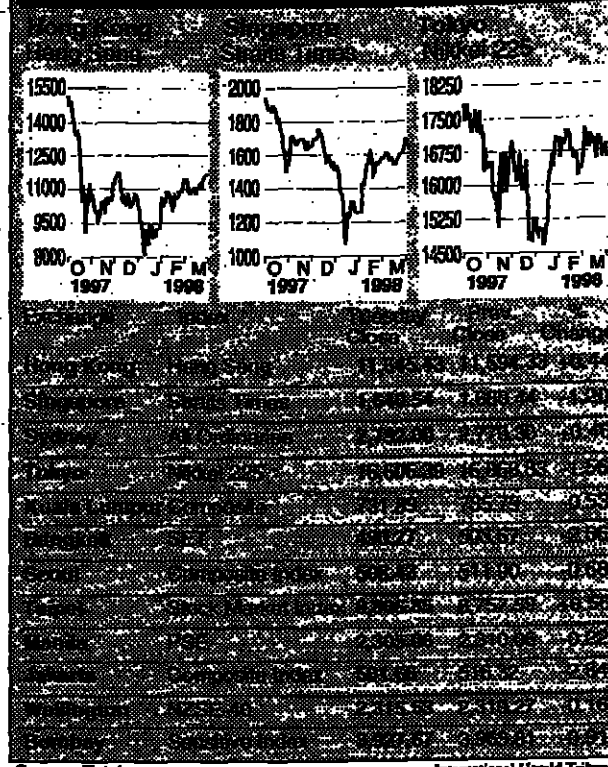
The most frequently cited example of a country that has found a balance between deregulation and sensible controls is Chile, which raised foreign-currency loans at a rate of 30 percent in their first year and requires stock investors to leave their money in the country for a minimum of 12 months.

Stanley Fischer, the deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland last month that "the Chilean scheme is one that needs to be considered."

The goal of Chile's system is that with capital costing more for short-term projects, borrowers and lenders will be more careful about where they direct the foreign funds.

The idea of controls on the Chilean model "is still an issue under active debate," said Morris Goldstein, senior fellow in international finance at the Institute for International Economics in Washington. But it is not a cure-all, and it works only if countries clean up leading practices that, for example, allow the use of real estate as collateral for short-term loans.

## Investor's Asia



Source: Telerep

International Herald Tribune

## FOR INVESTMENT INFORMATION

Read THE MONEY REPORT every Saturday in the IHT.

## WTO Sees Slower Trade Growth

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

GENEVA — A slowdown in Asian and U.S. economic growth could lead to a drop of two to three percentage points in the growth rate of world trade this year, the World Trade Organization said Tuesday, and it said fears of a flood of exports from Asia were exaggerated.

Exports of goods globally rose 9.5 percent in volume terms last year, the trade body said in a report.

The organization said trade growth was likely to slow in some Asian countries, such as South Korea and Indonesia, whose currencies have lost as much as two-thirds of their value against the dollar in the past six months, making imports more expensive.

"Trade prospects for 1998 remain clouded by uncertainty over the impact of the Asian financial crisis," the group said without making a specific forecast for this year.

Still, lower imports into the five countries most affected — Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Korea and Thailand — are unlikely to be a major brake on 1998 world trade growth, the WTO said, as these countries account for no more than 7 percent of global commerce.

Exports from the five countries will grow this year this year, the WTO said, but not as rapidly as might have been expected given the massive declines of their currencies. The countries account for a combined 3.6 percent of global gross domestic product, the organization said.

(AFP, Bloomberg)

## Prognosis for Japan's Economy: Possibly Heading for Recession

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Japan's already weak economy is worsening, two top economic officials said Tuesday in the latest grim government statements indicating the country could be headed toward a recession.

Finance Minister Hikaru Matsunaga said the economy was "in a severe state."

Koji Orii, director-general of the Economic Planning Agency, then said the economy remained "stagnant" and its problem was "becoming more severe."

The government conceded late last year that economic growth was at a standstill, but many private economists and business leaders have expressed concern that the economy may start to shrink.

The problems have put mounting pressure on the government to come up with

tax cuts, public spending, or both to snap the economy out of the doldrums.

The minister of international trade and industry, Mitsuo Horiuchi, urged the government to consider deep cuts in corporate and income taxes, reflecting the business community's concern over the economy. His call for bold tax relief for companies and individuals came one day after senior ruling party politicians decided not to include large-scale tax cuts in an economic stimulus package set for release Thursday.

The governing Liberal Democratic Party has said the package will center on public works spending and will not include an income tax cut.

But senior LDP officials left open the possibility of a cut in personal income taxes.

(AP, Bloomberg)

## Hitachi Sets Chip Venture in Russia

Agence France-Press

TOKYO — Japan's Hitachi Ltd. said Tuesday it would form a joint venture with Russian partners in April to produce semiconductors in St. Petersburg.

Hitachi-Svetlana Power Electronics, capitalized at 2.2 million yen (\$17,000), will become the first semiconductor production facility in Russia run by a Japanese electronics manufacturer, com-

pany executives said.

The venture will be controlled 51 percent by Hitachi and 49 percent by a group of Russian partners, led by AOOT Svetlana of St. Petersburg.

Hitachi-Svetlana expects annual production of 100,000 units of insulated gate bipolar transistors — a power semiconductor device.

Production is to start by the end of December.

## Very briefly:

• Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd., Hong Kong's major airline, plans to lay off an additional 130 employees as business continues to sag amid Asia's economic downturn. The move will bring to 870 the number of workers the airline has laid off since the beginning of the year.

• Hong Kong auctioned off two plots of land, including a property on exclusive Victoria Peak, for 1.21 billion dollars (\$156.2 million), topping some forecasts and bolstering confidence in the city's slumping property market.

• Japan's domestic demand for cars, trucks and buses fell 21.2 percent in February, to 524,662 vehicles, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association said. But including vehicles produced for export, the number of vehicles built in Japan in February was nearly unchanged at 933,192, the group said.

• Oriental Land Co., the owner and operator of Tokyo Disneyland, plans to sell bonds to help finance a 400 billion yen (\$3.07 billion) expansion project.

• Japanese department-store and supermarket sales fell 6.6 percent in February from a year earlier, to 612.4 billion yen, the Japan Department Stores Association said. The decline was the 11th consecutive monthly drop.

• Japan's Finance Ministry granted Allstate Insurance Co. permission to sell auto and other types of nonlife insurance policies in Japan.

• ABB Asea Brown Boveri Ltd., a Swiss-Swedish conglomerate, formed a venture making power transformers with several Chinese companies including Chongqing Transformer Works.

• Singapore Land Ltd. posted a 3 percent gain in profit last year, to 88.9 million Singapore dollars (\$55.7 million), lifted by higher rentals.

AP, Bloomberg

## GET YOUR MIND WORKING WITH PARIBAS

Two elephants are sitting on a log.  
The little elephant is the big elephant's son,  
but the big elephant  
is not the little elephant's father.  
How is this possible?



fig. 1

"If you are not my father,  
I wonder who is?"



fig. 2

"The bigger question is:  
who am I?"



PARIBAS  
A FORCE IN  
GLOBAL  
CORPORATE  
BANKING

Total Assets  
US \$290 billion

Net worth  
US \$12 billion

70% of revenues  
generated  
outside France

## SIZE IS MISLEADING

The question above demonstrates how language and prejudice can make us leap to conclusions. Corporate banking is particularly rife with misconceptions.

Few realize, for example, that Paribas with total assets of over US \$290 billion is one of the top three banks in commodities and trade finance and a major player in media where it ranks N° 2 in Europe.

More than the two thirds of our business activity is concentrated in high added-value structured financing and in growth sectors such as Projects, Export, Aerospace and Healthcare.

Yet to some people who view banking from a distance, a more familiar name somehow just sounds bigger. And often for no reason at all.

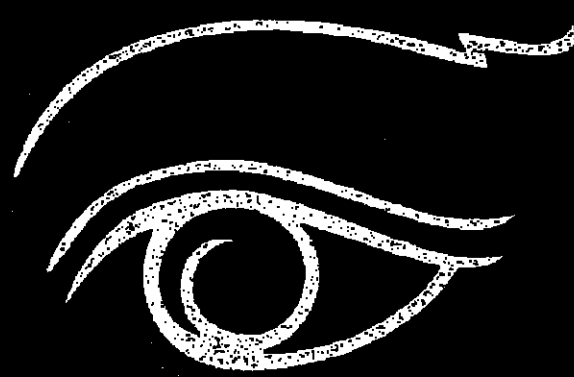
Which brings us back to that log and those elephants and the moral of this story which is "never assume".

We assume that because we say "big elephant" it must be male. In fact, the big elephant is the little elephant's mother. <http://www.paribas.com>

 PARIBAS Thinking beyond banking



SPONSORED PAGE



# amazing THAILAND

## NATURAL GATEWAY TO THE MEKONG REGION

I recently traveled to Kunming, in the heart of southern China, to join a unique international expedition called the Thailand-Laos-China Friendship Caravan. The caravan illustrates why Thailand is the natural gateway to the Mekong Region.

Over six days, the expedition members and I navigated our way over 1,300 kilometers (800 miles) of highways and four-wheel drive tracks in the upper reaches of the Mekong River Basin, passing through some of Asia's most spectacular country terrain as widely varied as tropical rain forest and chilly highlands. Organized by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) in cooperation with the PATA Thailand Chapter, Thai Airways International and the Petroleum Authority of Thailand, the project is just one step in the Thai government's effort to pioneer an Indochina economic zone served by a region-wide transportation network and attractive to travelers in

an open window in the distance. We end the day in a tea garden in the heart of the city. Elderly residents play mahjong in the dying light. It's a peaceful place, a world away from the traffic outside the garden gate.

**DAY TWO:** The Friendship Caravan kicks off at dawn as our convoy of 25 vehicles hits the streets of Kunming behind a police escort. We detour to Stone Forest, 120 kilometers southeast of Kunming, a massive collection of gray limestone pillars. Then our journey begins in earnest, a straight run toward Laos.

Southern China is traversed by water. Magnificent rivers snake through the countryside, brooks tumble through hilltop villages, and channels run through fields of sugar cane. We catch glimpses of small-town life among the hill tribes: a village shop, an old man and his grandson, an immense pig roasting over an open fire while a man bastes it with sauce.

Between villages, we drive at a brisk pace. Sounding horns and

The view through the windows of our Jeep Cherokee shows a rural society succeeding handsomely in the task of keeping itself fed. Yet apart from diesel utility vehicles used to transport everything from people to hay to rubbish, there's no modern farm equipment in sight.

After today's drive (349 kilometers) it's easy to be optimistic about China's future. The government is building a wide transnational road through this region to expedite access to Laos and Thailand, and the existing roads are surprisingly good.

Shortly after 5 P.M. we cross the Mekong River (called the Lancang River in China), a wonderful moment for us all.

**DAY FOUR:** We wake up in Jinghong — known as the City of Dawn — the capital of Xishuangbanna Prefecture. It's the first day of the Chinese New Year and the streets resonate with firecrackers. In a nearby market, holiday shoppers seem unperturbed by the noise. Jinghong is a lively, bustling town that appears to be undergoing a renaissance. Five international hotels are already open, with at least that many under construction.

The prefecture is home to many tribes, but the Dai people dominate. Dai women wear colorful handwoven sarongs and often wrap their hair in beautiful headdresses. The Dai language is similar to the northern Thai dialects. Dai villages feature wooden houses raised on stilts with ducks, pigs and chickens frolicking below. In one village, about five hours from Jinghong, an elderly woman with a nut-brown face and bright pink sarong and headdress

greets us. She invites us to her house for lunch, but regrettably our schedule prohibits us from accepting her kind invitation.

**DAY FIVE:** Border crossings are often fascinating, and the China-Laos checkpoint is no exception. The Chinese side consists of a motley collection of official buildings and an old gate. We stop to take photos with the Chinese guards, who oblige us with a smile. We say good-bye to our Chinese police escorts, who have done an admirable job of guiding 25 foreign vehicles over 1,000 kilometers of diverse road without incident.

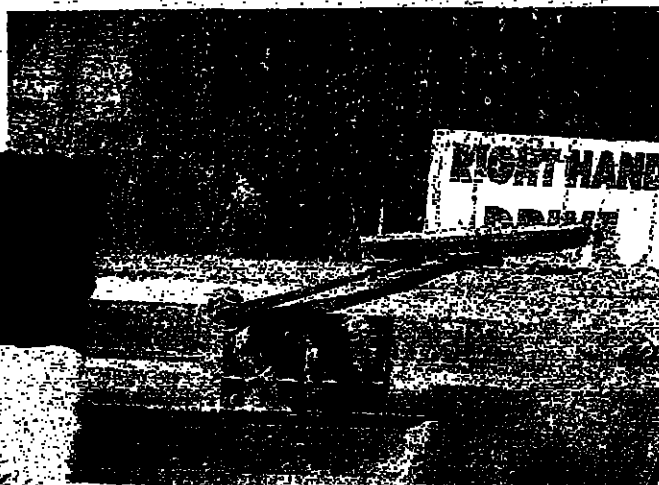
We cross the half kilometer of "no-man's land" between China and Laos. All around us, land is under cultivation. Immigration takes just long enough for us to wander through the duty-free store. We arrive at Luang Nam Tha and check into the basic but cheerful Udomsilpa Hotel. In the nearby market, women are selling beautiful silk and cotton weavings. Each piece takes two months to produce yet costs only \$10.

**DAY SIX:** Our TAT guides tell us that today will be the hardest leg of the journey and they prove to be right. We rise at 4 A.M. and head off in the darkness on a mountain road that soon deteriorates into an unpaved track. Later it worsens even further into a rutted, boggy path.

The caravan, launched in the winding roads of China's Yunnan province (above), covered 1,300 kilometers of highways and four-wheel drive tracks through some of Asia's most spectacular countryside.



People's Republic of China



RIGHT HAND

NYSE

Today's 4 P.M. Close

(Continued)

Symbol	Change	Price
IBM	+	125.00
MSFT	+	55.00
GOOG	+	100.00
AMZN	+	45.00
APPL	+	120.00
ORCL	+	50.00
INTL	+	30.00
DISC	+	25.00
WALT	+	20.00
WDC	+	15.00
QCOM	+	10.00
TXN	+	8.00
SPX	+	1,200.00
DOW	+	80.00
IND	+	3,000.00
COM	+	1,500.00
US	+	100.00
EUR	+	1.50
GBP	+	0.70
JPY	+	110.00
AUD	+	0.75
NZD	+	0.60
CHF	+	0.90
SEK	+	8.00
NOK	+	7.00
DKK	+	6.00
SGD	+	1.30
HKD	+	7.80
TWD	+	25.00
THB	+	35.00
VND	+	1,500.00
PHP	+	50.00
IDR	+	1,500.00
MYR	+	3.50
SAR	+	3.75
USD	+	1.00



As we headed south, mountain after mountain was covered in superb rice terraces (above). In Thailand and

search of adventure. As a link in the Amazing Thailand campaign, it highlights Thailand's role as the natural hub of the Greater Mekong Subregion (China's Yunnan Province, Myanmar, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand). This is the story of that journey.

**DAY ONE:** At an elevation of 1,890 meters (6,200 feet), Kunming's climate is bracing in the winter months. This city of 3.5 million is full of contrast and color. Its wide, tree-lined streets teem with cyclists pushing down the boulevards like great schools of fish. Big department stores with large windows are well stocked with modern goods. Across town, in the Flower and Bird Market, cobblestone lanes meander through rows of shops selling birds, seed, flowers and frogs.



GALLERY

flashing lights, we careen at breakneck speed around tortuous, exhilarating bends. The convoy stops for coffee on a narrow road and we gasp at the views: hydroelectric stations set against a mountain backdrop, rice terraces climbing the steep bluffs, seeming to defy gravity.

Tonight we stay in Mojiang, a town that features one hotel, one gas station and one main street. It has taken us 12 hours to travel 328 kilometers.

**DAY THREE:** As we continue south, mountain after mountain (I lost count at 123) is covered in superb rice terraces. Vegetable patches, tea gardens and tree plantations abound. Even luscious strawberries are being expertly grown in this highland climate.



In the villages along the caravan route, we caught glimpses of peaceful small-town life.

On the way back from the Dragon Gate — grottoes cleaved from the cliff by a Taoist monk and his coworkers 200 years ago — we stop at Huating Temple. Ancient buildings gracefully surround a stone pond. Incense drifts upward through the magnolia, crabapple, green plum and willow trees. The main temple is an extraordinary panoply of statues of thousands of figures from Buddhist mythology. Somewhere a prayer bell sounds and Chinese opera music wafts from



THAILAND - LAOS - CHINA FRIENDSHIP CARAVAN

19 - 30 MARCH 2001, 19 - 30 JANUARY 1998



TOURISM AUTHORITY OF THAILAND

202 Le Concord Building - Ratchadaphisek Road - Huay-Kwang - Bangkok 10320  
Tel. (662) 694 1222 (has 80 phone lines) - Fax (662) 694 1220, 694 1221  
e-mail: tat@cs.ait.ac.th - Web site: http://www.tat.or.th

**Thai**  
Smooth as silk

"AMAZING THAILAND" was produced in its entirety by the Advertising Department of the International Herald Tribune. It was sponsored by the Tourism Authority of Thailand. Writer: Joe Yagerst, based in the United States and Southeast Asia. Program Director: Bill Mahlen.



NASDAQ

**Tuesday's 4 P.M.**  
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities in terms of dollar volume, updated twice a year.  
The Associated Press.

Stock	Dr	Yld	PE	High	Low	Open
IBM		4.5	15.0	100.00	98.00	99.00
Microsoft		3.5	18.0	55.00	54.00	54.50
Apple		4.0	16.0	45.00	44.00	44.50
Oracle		5.0	14.0	35.00	34.00	34.50
Sun		4.5	15.0	30.00	29.00	29.50
HP		4.0	16.0	25.00	24.00	24.50
Intel		3.5	18.0	20.00	19.00	19.50
Motorola		4.0	16.0	15.00	14.00	14.50
Verizon		5.0	14.0	10.00	9.50	9.75
AT&T		4.5	15.0	8.00	7.50	7.75

Stock	Dr	Yld	PE	High	Low	Open
Amazon		3.0	20.0	15.00	14.00	14.50
Alibaba		2.5	22.0	12.00	11.00	11.50
Google		3.5	18.0	10.00	9.50	9.75
Facebook		4.0	16.0	8.00	7.50	7.75
Twitter		5.0	14.0	6.00	5.50	5.75
LinkedIn		4.5	15.0	5.00	4.50	4.75
Slack		3.5	18.0	4.00	3.50	3.75
Zoom		4.0	16.0	3.00	2.50	2.75
Dropbox		5.0	14.0	2.00	1.50	1.75
GitHub		4.5	15.0	1.50	1.00	1.25

Stock	Dr	Yld	PE	High	Low	Open
Netflix		3.0	20.0	15.00	14.00	14.50
Spotify		2.5	22.0	12.00	11.00	11.50
Twitter		3.5	18.0	10.00	9.50	9.75
LinkedIn		4.0	16.0	8.00	7.50	7.75
Slack		5.0	14.0	6.00	5.50	5.75
Zoom		4.5	15.0	5.00	4.50	4.75
Dropbox		3.5	18.0	4.00	3.50	3.75
GitHub		4.0	16.0	3.00	2.50	2.75
Okta		5.0	14.0	2.00	1.50	1.75
Auth0		4.5	15.0	1.50	1.00	1.25

Stock	Dr	Yld	PE	High	Low	Open
Twilio		3.0	20.0	15.00	14.00	14.50
SendGrid		2.5	22.0	12.00	11.00	11.50
MailChimp		3.5	18.0	10.00	9.50	9.75
HubSpot		4.0	16.0	8.00	7.50	7.75
Marketo		5.0	14.0	6.00	5.50	5.75
Pardot		4.5	15.0	5.00	4.50	4.75
Eloqua		3.5	18.0	4.00	3.50	3.75
Braze		4.0	16.0	3.00	2.50	2.75
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**NYSE**  
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(Continued)

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سكمان لعل







## SPORTS

# Bulls Take 6th Straight In Victory Over Celtics

*The Associated Press*

Scottie Pippen scored 27 points, including 14 on dunks, as the Chicago Bulls beat the Boston Celtics to keep their narrow grip on first place in the overall standings.

The Bulls victory, by 111-88 in Chicago, was their sixth straight. Pippen, Michael Jordan and Phil Jackson, the coach, might all leave the team after this season.

"We know that it's 14, 13, 12, 11," Jackson said. "We're just counting down until the end of the season. Just a handful of games left before we

## NBA ROUNDUP

finish up as a team. We've done something here that's remarkable, but it can't go on forever. We know that. Sometime, the plug's got to be pulled on it, and this is the appropriate time. It's time to go."

The Bulls lead the Seattle SuperSonics by half a game in the overall standings and the Utah Jazz by one game. Chicago appears to have the easiest remaining schedule of the three top teams. Utah and Seattle still must play each other once more.

Pippen had 11 rebounds and six assists in one of his best all-around games of the season. Since his return after missing 35 games with a foot injury, the Bulls have gone 28-6.

Jordan scored 24 points, Dennis Rodman had 14 rebounds to go with a season-high 12 points and Toni Kukoc had 17 points and 10 assists for the Bulls.

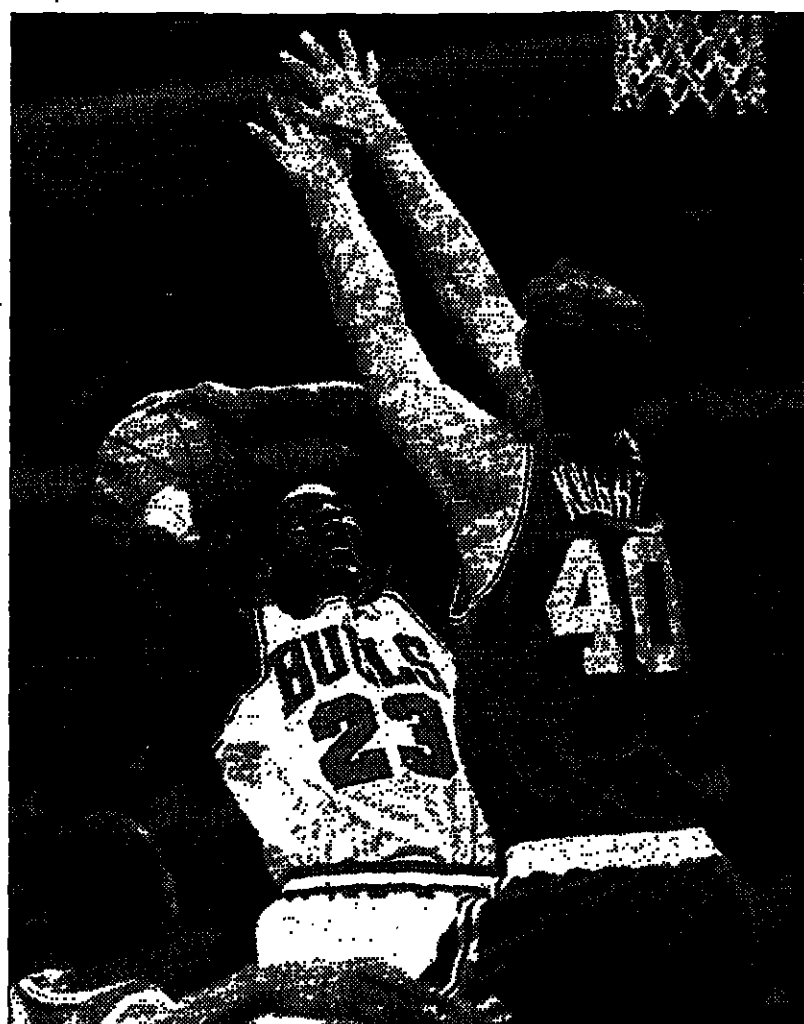
**SuperSonics 108, Kings 83** In Seattle, Gary Payton scored 24 points and Hersey Hawkins broke a two-game scoreless drought with 16 points as Seattle ended a two-game losing streak with a victory over Sacramento.

Though the game was already decided in the fourth quarter, coach George Karl left Hawkins in as his shooting guard tried to regain his touch.

Averaging a career-low 10.3 points, Hawkins missed 15 straight shots before scoring on a lay-up in the first quarter.

**Lakers 107, Nuggets 86** In Denver, Eddie Jones had 27 points, five rebounds and three blocked shots as Los Angeles completed its second straight four-game season sweep of the Nuggets.

Shaquille O'Neal added 24 points and Kobe Bryant had 23 for the Lakers,



Michael Jordan getting a shot off over the Celtics center Travis Knight.

who sent the Nuggets to a franchise record-tying 62d loss.

**Mavericks 91, Timberwolves 87** Hubert Davis scored 10 of his 16 points during a 20-2 fourth-quarter run as Dallas rallied to win at Minnesota.

Michael Finley scored 27 points and Shawn Bradley added 16 points, 12 rebounds and 4 blocks for the Mavericks. The Timberwolves have lost five of their last seven.

**Pistons 94, 76ers 79** Allen Iverson was held to a career-low four points as Detroit, behind 20 points from Joe Dumars, won at Philadelphia. Iverson shot just 2-for-14 for the Sixers.

**Grizzlies 106, Clippers 95** In Vancouver, Bryant Reeves scored 35 points as the Grizzlies set a franchise record with their 16th victory. The Grizzlies won 15 games in 1995-96, their inaugural season, and 14 in 1996-97.

## NBA Voids Pact With Players

The owners of the National Basketball Association voted overwhelmingly to void the final three years of the collective bargaining agreement with the players' union. The New York Times reported. The vote of 27 to 2 at the league's

board of governors meeting in Dallas on Monday paved the way for negotiations that will probably alter the off-season and beyond.

The owners exercised a clause in the agreement that allowed them to reopen the pact if it was not working to their satisfaction. Neither Commissioner David Stern nor Billy Hunter, the players' association executive director, would discuss the possibility of the first work stoppage in the league's history.

The deal will expire June 30. Both sides have from April 1 until then to work out a new contract. Several team officials have suggested that if one is not reached, the league would most likely lock out the players during the summer and prohibit teams from signing free agents or making trades.

"There are obvious remedies available to all sides in a labor situation when parties do not agree, but we'll leave it to others to speculate on a worst-case scenario," Stern said Monday.

Hunter said in a statement, "It is unfortunate the owners have chosen to forfeit three years of guaranteed labor peace at a time when the industry is so obviously healthy."

# Cardinal Flying High in NCAA

Stanford Proves It's Physical and Quick Enough for Final Four

By Timothy W. Smith  
New York Times Service

Stanford was not supposed to be physical enough for a tough inside battle with Purdue in the Midwest Regional semifinal. But in the end, the Boilermakers were the ones picking themselves up off the floor.

And the Cardinal guards were not supposed to be quick enough to handle Rhode Island's backcourt of Cutino Mobley and Tyson Wheeler.

But it was Cardinal guard Arthur Lee who took over Sunday's game in the final two minutes, and it was Wheeler who unraveled at the free-throw line with an opportunity to tie the score in the last five seconds.

Now Stanford, the "other" team from the Pacific-10 Conference, is in the Final Four with an opportunity to win the National Collegiate Athletic Association men's basketball championship.

In the first game Saturday night at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas, the Cardinal (30-4) will play Kentucky (33-4), which rallied from a 17-point deficit to defeat Duke and win the South Regional on Sunday.

Utah (29-3), which knocked off Arizona — the Pacific-10 champion and the defending national champion — to win the West Regional, will play North Carolina (34-3), the East Regional champion, in the second game.

"I'll have the opportunity to speak a little Spanish down there" in San Antonio, said Stanford forward Mark Madson, who did Mormon missionary work in Spain for two years. "I love Mexican food — flour tortillas, cheese and chicken quesadillas, rice casseroles. I'm just very excited about going."

But this is not an opportunity to play galloping gourmet. This is a chance to make a run for a national championship, something Stanford has not won since 1942.

Mike Montgomery said that when he was hired as the Cardinal's coach 10 years ago, the prevailing attitude among students, fans and some administrators was that the basketball team could not succeed at a high level. He never accepted that, and he has taken Stanford to the NCAA tournament six times in 10 seasons.

"When I was being recruited, I remember Coach Montgomery talking about it," Madson said. "He said the goal of our program was to get to the Final Four and have a chance at a national championship. Now, it's a reality."

All four coaches will be making their first appearances as head coaches in the Final Four, and North Carolina's Bill Guthridge and Kentucky's Tubby Smith are in their first season with their teams. Rick Majerus, who took Utah to the final eight last year, was an assistant

on the staff of Al McGuire when McGuire guided Marquette to a national championship in 1977.

Kentucky and North Carolina are familiar names in the Final Four.

The Wildcats are here for the third year in a row. Last year, coached by Rick Pitino, they lost to Arizona in the championship game; they won the title the year before.

Guthridge was the longtime assistant to Dean Smith, who retired before this season after 11 Final Four appearances. Smith left Guthridge a team loaded with talent, and Guthridge became the first head coach to win 30 or more games in his first season.

The Tar Heels, who have been to the Final Four three of the last four years, are the favorites.

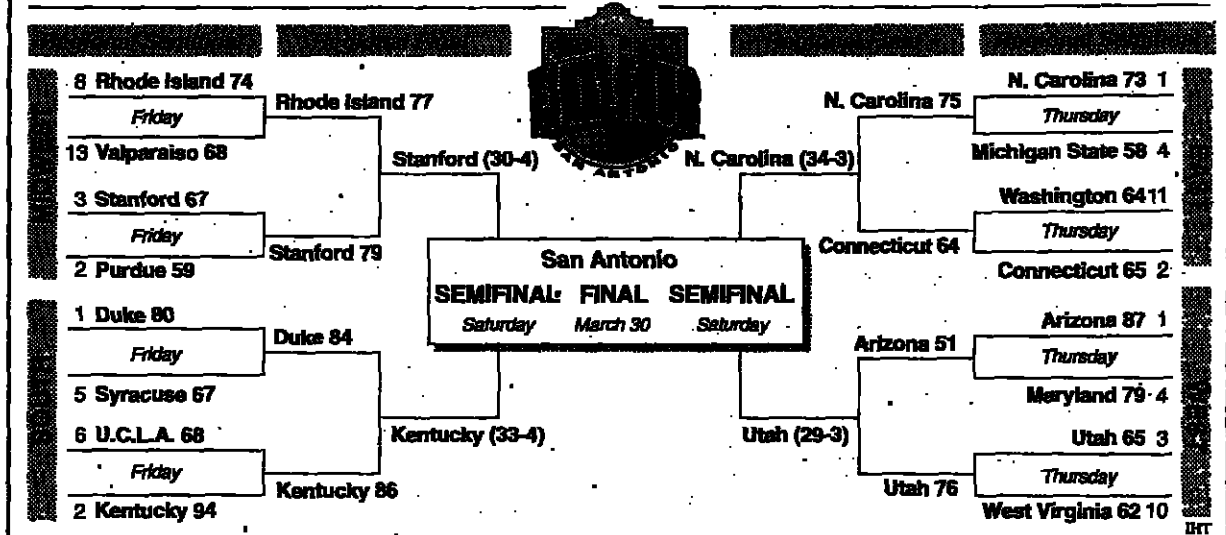
"We know only one team is going to leave San Antonio not disappointed," Guthridge said. "We hope it's us. We're working hard to make sure it's North Carolina."

Antawn Jamison, the Tar Heels' star forward, said the team was going to San Antonio with a different attitude than it had last year, when it lost to Arizona in the semifinals.

"After we made the Final Four last year, we were happy to be there," he said.

"We kind of got caught up in it. This year, everyone on this team feels we can win it."

## 1998 NCAA Men's Basketball Final Four



# Tennessee Gets Fright but Wins, 76-70

*The Associated Press*

After 60 games and a slew of upsets, the race for the NCAA women's basketball championship has come down to Tennessee and three surprises. And speaking of surprises, there was almost a fourth.

Tennessee, practically preordained as

## WOMEN'S NCAA

the national champion from the start, kept alive its hopes of a record third straight title, but only after surviving its scariest game of the season.

The Lady Vols needed all the havoc their press could muster and clutch play from Chamique Holdclaw to turn back North Carolina, 76-70, Monday night in the Midwest Regional final in Nashville.

Thanks to a gutsy comeback from a 12-point deficit, Tennessee (37-0) will play its Southeastern Conference rival Arkansas (22-10) in the national semi-

finals in Kansas City on Friday night. "This is the hardest of the six games to play," said the Tennessee coach, Pat Summitt. "Everybody dreams of being in the Final Four, but you have to win the regional first."

Arkansas, at No. 9 the lowest seed ever to reach the Final Four, beat Duke, 77-72, in the West final in Oakland to earn its first trip to the sport's showcase event. But a pairing with Tennessee is not much of a reward. The Lady Vols beat Arkansas, 88-58, during the regular season.

Tennessee will be in the Final Four for the 11th time and has won five national titles, all under Summitt. Louisiana Tech, which has won two national championships, beat Purdue, 72-65, in the Midwest final in Lubbock, Texas, to reach the Final Four for the ninth time.

"There's nothing like going to the Final Four," said Leon Barnes, the Tech coach. "It never gets old."

It almost never happened for Ten-

nessee, which trailed, 61-49, with less than seven and a half minutes left. But the Lady Vols' smothering press triggered a 15-1 run that pulled them into the lead.

Holdclaw finished with 29 points and Semeka Randall scored 20 for the Lady Vols, who trailed in the second half for the first time since Dec. 12.

Louisiana Tech (30-3) will meet first-timer North Carolina State (25-6) in its semifinal. North Carolina State, the No. 4 seed, won the East, 60-52 over second-seeded Connecticut in Dayton, Ohio.

Connecticut lost for the first time in the eight games it has played without All-America Nykesha Sales, sidelined by a ruptured Achilles tendon. Amy Duran and Paige Sauer led the Huskies with 11 points each.

"Despite all our wins, this year has been an incredible struggle for me," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "The fact that we've even been able to get here is a miracle."

# Chicago Sees Silver Lining in Tie With Detroit

*The Associated Press*

TROIT — Craig Hartsburg, the Chicago Black Hawks' coach, tried to put a positive spin on blowing a goal lead against the Detroit Red Wings. He can look at it two ways, Hartsburg said Monday.

## NHL ROUNDUP

After Steve Yzerman scored two of Detroit's three period goals and assisted on the other, rallying the Wings to a 5-3 tie. "The negative is we didn't hold the lead and let them back into the hockey game. We didn't let the positive is we came in here and got a point," Hartsburg said. "It's a chance to match a best-five-game winning streak. His four-point night (two goals, two assists) moved Yzerman within one point

of becoming the 13th National Hockey League player with 1,400 points.

Detroit trailed by 5-3 when Yzerman scored the Red Wings' third power-play goal of the game with 4:48 remaining. Yzerman tied it with 51 seconds to go. Ethan Moreau scored two for Chicago, helping it take a 4-1 lead.

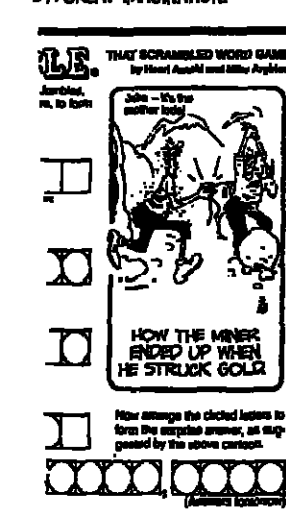
**Hurricanes 5, Panthers 3** In Miami, Keith Primeau scored twice as Carolina extended Florida's losing streak to 13 games.

The Hurricanes, who had lost four of their previous five games, moved into a ninth-place tie with the New York Rangers in the Eastern Conference. Both teams trail Ottawa by five points in the race for the conference's final playoff spot. Florida, which also has a 15-game winless streak, moved within four losses of the NHL record of 17 straight, set by the Washington Capitals in 1974-75.

## IS THE MENACE



44 MORRIS A LOT BECAUSE A GREAT IMAGINATION.



HOW THE MINE ENDED UP WHEN HE STRUCK GOLD.

**ROUTMENT**  
its every Monday  
the Intermarket,  
the contact Nina Neri  
in London office:  
+44 1 71 420 0325  
+44 1 71 420 0338  
or nearest IHT office  
representative.

## PEANUTS



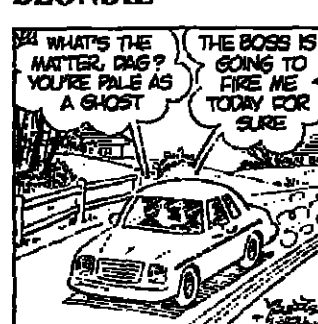
ASK YOUR DOG IF HE WANTS TO GO OVER TO THE PARK AND PLAY.



I'LL LIKE THAT PLAN CLOSER BY PUTTING ON THIS MASK.



SORRY I TOOK SO LONG, BUT I WANTED TO MAKE MY POINT CLEAR.



THE BOSS IS GOING TO FIRE ME TODAY FOR SURE.



HERE, FLY.



BEETLE BAILEY



ANY QUESTIONS?



COME ON ONE OF YOU MUST HAVE A QUESTION.



WILL THEY BE GIVING OUT AWARDS?



GOOD... IT, FUZZ?



MAY I GO TO THE BATHROOM?



HOW I BECAUSE YOU WON'T BE SO SURE?

## CALVIN AND HOBBES



WE'RE HOME! HOW WAS CALVIN TONIGHT?



OH, THAT BAD, EH?



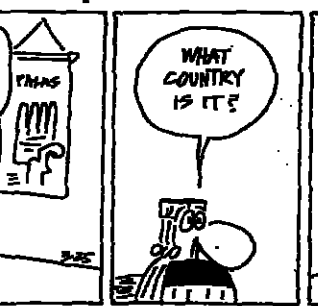
AND A FIVE DOLLAR ADVANCE ON THE NEXT TIME.



WHAT COUNTRY IS IT?



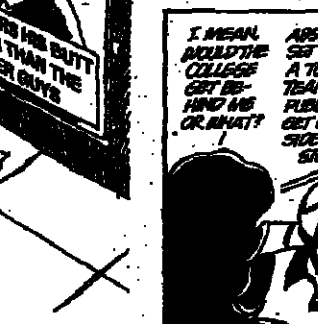
I SEE A SOCIETY WHERE EVERYBODY'S OUT OF WORK!



IT'S AN ANT FARM.



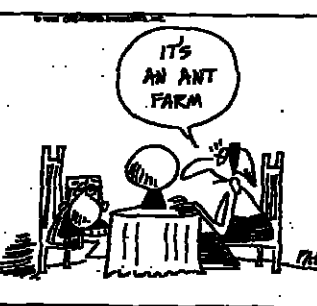
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IT'S A SOCIETY WHERE EVERYBODY'S OUT OF WORK!



AND A FIVE DOLLAR ADVANCE ON THE NEXT TIME.



WHAT COUNTRY IS IT?



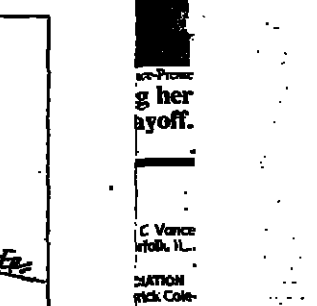
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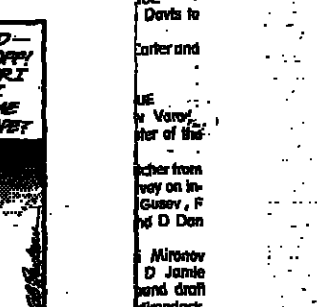
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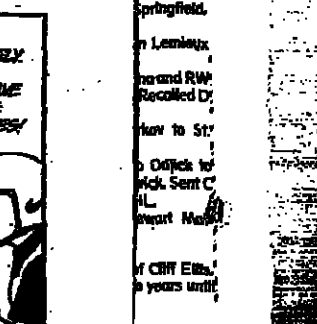
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WHAT COUNTRY IS IT?



IT'S A SOCIETY WHERE EVERYBODY'S OUT OF WORK!



WHAT COUNTRY IS IT?

هك من الكحل



## OBSERVER

## The War of Laughs

By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — What a circus! What a farce! See Vernon Jordan quote St. Paul on the courthouse steps! Watch "60 Minutes" tell the tale of a woman groped in the Oval Office!

Feast your eyes on the transformation wrought by the hairdresser's art on Paula Jones and Linda Tripp!

Witness Lawyer Ginsburg's rise from the obscurity of malpractice courtrooms to media stardom!

And don't miss Matt Drudge, folks! The man who tells all on the Internet! Absolutely all! See him look square-jawed and upright as he meets ferocious interrogator Tim Russert!

See Michael Isikoff get scooped while clownish old-fashioned Newsweek editors dawdle over ethics!

Watch media stars meet Monica Lewinsky at parties and restaurants!

Hear tales of "the big creep," the semen-stained garment and fantastic book contracts!

Watch Kenneth Starr, the Sultan of the Subpoena, sweat Monica's mom in the grand jury box!

See daring leakers defy court orders by crushing media axes under tons of leaked documents.

Don't miss the entire Supreme Court explaining unanimously why a lady's case must be heard without delay, and presidency be damned!

I cite but a handful of reasons for doubting people who say they are sick and tired of Monica. Farce of this quality doesn't come along every week.

Most people who profess Monica fatigue mean they have made up their minds and

wish the spinmeisters would leave them alone. This is not the same as saying they are not delighted by the spectacle of all Washington coming unhinged in a grand old-fashioned burlesque show.

It is natural that "the great issues" — budgets, pork bills, social welfare — should leave millions numb. Millions assume such matters will be settled by and for the benefit of big-money people.

The Monica circus, on the other hand, gives outsiders a chance to enjoy a pleasurable sneer at the essential cheesiness of big shots afloat on oceans of money.

The polls depict a public that thinks the president misbehaves with women and lies about it, but doesn't think this disqualifies him for the office. From this you might expect that politicians will drop the "family-issues" bunk from their campaign oratory, but don't bet on it. Political campaigners know that hypocrisy, if flagrant enough, can be catnip to the voters.

One of the joys of the Monica show is that there is nobody to root for, with the exception of Betty Currie, the president's secretary, who seems to have had the wretched luck to be the secretary to a president who needs a secretary to take a fall.

Among the shabbier performers are the White House's muscle guys, whose job it is to counteract rumor with rumor, guff with guff, dirt with dirt, character assassination with character assassination. James Carville promised "war" when Prosecutor Starr entered the Monica phase of his perpetual Whitewater investigation. It has become a war of laughs.

New York Times Service

## 'Titanic' Captures 11 Oscars

Jack Nicholson and Helen Hunt Win Top Acting Awards

By Bernard Weinraub  
New York Times Service

LOS ANGELES — "Titanic," the James Cameron epic about a tragic love affair aboard the doomed ocean liner, glided triumphantly through the 70th annual Academy Awards, winning 11 accolades, including best picture and the best director Oscars for Cameron. The film's honors tied it with "Ben-Hur" for the most ever.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences presented its top acting awards to Jack Nicholson and Helen Hunt for "As Good as It Gets," and its supporting-acting Oscars to Kim Basinger for "L.A. Confidential" and Robin Williams for "Good Will Hunting."

The best foreign film was the Dutch movie "Character," by Mike van Diem (Page 8).



The acting awards went to Basinger, Williams, Hunt and Nicholson.

The Oscar for best documentary went to "The Long Way Home," a searing film about the hardships endured by liberated concentration camp inmates after World War II. At the same time, Curtis Hanson and Brian Koppelman won an Oscar for their adaptation of the James Ellroy novel "L.A. Confidential."

The winners of the original screenplay award were Ben Affleck and Matt Damon for "Good Will Hunting," in which the two actors also starred.

Hunt, the Emmy-Award winning star of NBC's "Mad About You," received her best-actress Oscar for playing a world-weary waitress and single mother in James L. Brooks' comedy "As Good as It Gets." The 34-year-old actress said emotionally, "I'm here for one reason — that's Jim Brooks."

Basinger, whose role as a sultry

prostitute in "L.A. Confidential" marked a comeback for the 44-year-old actress, said excitedly after winning the supporting-actress award, "If anybody has a dream out there, I'm living proof that it can happen."

Williams, who had previously received three nominations for an Oscar but never won, seemed overwhelmed while accepting his supporting-actor award. "This might be the one time I'm speechless," said the 46-year-old actor, who portrayed a therapist in "Good Will Hunting."

Although Academy officials said beforehand that it was doubtful that Billy Crystal, the host of the show, would mention the current sexual allegations by several women against President Clinton, Crystal obviously thought otherwise.

"A year ago the White House was complaining there was too much sex in Hollywood," he said. "Times change." At another point Crystal brought down the house when he said: "There's a billion people watching the show tonight. Linda Tripp is tapping it." Later Williams cracked a joke about "the Vernon Jordan employment agency."

The 3-hour-and-14-minute "Titanic" has been No. 1 at the box office for 14 weeks and has grossed a record \$1.2 billion around the world, including \$495 million in the United States. The film starred Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet as fictional lovers aboard the vessel that sank in the Atlantic in 1912, carrying more than 1,500 people to their deaths.

With 14 Oscar nominations, which tied the record set by the Joseph L. Mankiewicz classic "All About Eve" (1950), "Titanic" was, from the outset, almost certain to dominate the Academy Awards.

Cameron said recently that in creating "Titanic," he felt audiences were eager to see a romantic and historic epic and were weary of science-fiction films.

"We went in with a harebrained theory — let's do a romantic epic because no one's done one in a long time," the filmmaker said. "We thought there was a hunger for



'Titanic' director James Cameron with his Oscars.

emotion, for character, for drama."

The other winners: Art Direction: "Titanic"; Cinematography: "Titanic"; Sound: "Titanic"; Sound Effects Editing: "Titanic"; Original Musical or Comedy Score: "The Full Monty"; Anne Dudley; Original Dramatic Score: "Titanic"; James Horner; Original Song: "My Heart Will Go On" from "Titanic"; James Horner and Will Jennings; Costume: "Titanic"; Documentary (short subject): "A Story of Healing"; Film Editing: "Titanic"; Previously announced: Gordon E. Sawyer Award: Don Jwerks; Scientific and Technical Award: Gennar P. Macielon; Honorary Award: Stanley Donen.

## PEOPLE

MAKING a rare public appearance, Prince William got a rock-star welcome in Vancouver, British Columbia, from about 200 screaming fans. The 15-year-old prince, his father, Prince Charles, and his brother, Prince Harry, 13, planned several public events around Vancouver before heading off for a skiing vacation. William, who has been compared in the local press to the movie star Leonardo DiCaprio, did his best to ignore teenage girls and the blinding light from an army of international photo-

graphers. He flashed a smile at official greeters and ducked into a harborside hotel for a reception. "William snubbed us," said Shannon Suggitt, 18, who nonetheless told Canadian Press, "I would marry him. He's beautiful." Britons gave a lackluster welcome to tubs of margarine bearing the official logo of the Diana, Princess of Wales, memorial fund. The tubs of Flora margarine are selling for the same price as the ordinary ones but the package has the word "Thanks" instead of the brand name and in-

cludes Diana's looping signature in purple script. The margarine is the first consumer product the fund has endorsed. Trustees hope the campaign will raise \$400,000 for Diana's favorite causes. There were plenty of people who disapproved. "I think it is awful and tacky," said Mary Ashworth, a 50-year-old homemaker. "I am a big royal fan, and I don't think this is the right way to remember Princess Diana. I certainly won't be buying it."

Among mother-daughter acts, the one coming up on May 2 and 3 in Northampton, Massachusetts, is something special. The mother is Rachel Redgrave; the daughter is Vanessa Redgrave, and the two members of the distinguished British acting family will appear at the Fifth Annual Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts in the world premiere of "Sarah Bernhardt Comes to Town." This theater piece is described by Vanessa Redgrave as

"a recital based on new Chekhov short stories and favorite Chekhov women."

Gregory Hines and his wife, the Broadway producer Pamela Koslow, have separated. Hines lives in Los Angeles, where he tapes "The Gregory Hines Show" for CBS. Koslow, who produced "Jelly's Last Jam," lives in New York. "It's not a divorce. This is just a separation," Hines's publicist said. The couple, who were married in 1981, have a 14-year-old son.

Patricia Racette has received the 19th annual Richard Tucker Award, conferred annually on an American opera singer on the verge of a major international career. The award carries a cash prize of \$30,000. Racette, 32, a soprano, has appeared at the Metropolitan Opera, the Paris Opera, Covent Garden in London, the San Fran-

cisco Opera, the Welsh National Opera and the Santa Fe Opera.

Now that he's been named co-anchor of ABC's "Good Morning America," Kevin Newman knows he'll have to get out a little more. "I've been a newsman all my life," the 38-year-old newscaster said. "I'm going to have to read more, go to the movies more and take on the popular culture. I'm just going to have to grow." Newman will take over from Charles Gibson on May 4 as co-anchor with Lisa McRee.

Sister Helen Prejean, whose anti-death-penalty book inspired the movie "Dead Man Walking," brought her crusade to the UN Human Rights Commission. "I especially appeal to my own country, the United States of America, to dismantle the machinery of death, which each year executes more and more people," she said.



Prince William, a teen heartthrob in Vancouver.

By Brian Knowlton

When the small airplane was being escorted away from the airport after a counseling session, the young man was escorted away from the airport after a counseling session.

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Egypt (Cairo)	00-20-2-222-111	Italy	00-39-2-222-1111
France	00-33-1-111-1111	Netherlands	00-31-2-222-1111
Germany	00-49-3-333-1111	Russia (Moscow)	00-7-312-333-1111
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## Clinton Shares For Rwandan

By John F. Harris

WASHINGTON Post Service

ALLI Rwanda — Four years ago, when Rwanda erupted in blood, Clinton administration officials debated whether the killings carried out by Hutu extremists should properly be called a genocide.

Wednesday, President Bill Clinton came here and acknowledged that Rwanda should have been simpler. "Today, as many as a million people are about to leave," he said. "It was a slaughter in this blood-filled case."

Clinton's speech, during an emotional three-hour stop in the Rwandan capital, came after he and his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, listened to survivors of the campaign to exterminate Rwanda's Tutsi minority.

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